8

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

雅 樹里

原作：御影・鏡 遊

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C140-9

電撃コミックス

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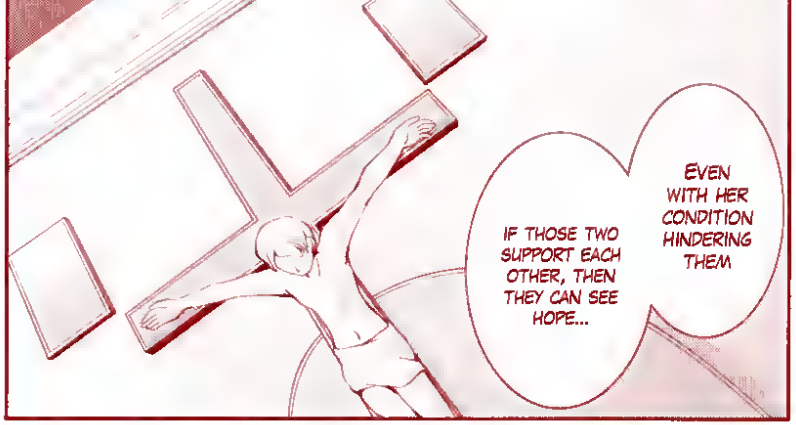

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Naru Nanao

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I believe everyone has
prayed to God at least once.

Even if they do not believe in
anything, the day where they
pray with all their heart
will definitely come.

For something that they
are searching for.

For something that they
are yearning for.

They reach out,
trying to attain it.

Formed by swirling emotions
and bonds between people,
that, lies ahead.

That, without a doubt...

Characters

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Yu Himura

Chihiro's chosen guardian. He's not related to the church but for some reasons he's always there. He's unsavorily tied to Kuse, who acts as an older brother to Renji.

Chihiro Shindou

A girl with an eye patch Renji met at the abandoned station. Has amnesia as a result of an accident. She has a mellow personality as opposed to her elder twin sister.

Renji Asou

A half-German boy whose father is an architect. He is a self appointed book junkie who loves to read. As a result of being transferred numerous times when he's overseas, he's bad at making friends.

Mizuki Hayama

Renji's cousin. Belongs to the basketball club affiliated to the neighboring Otobane Academy. Holds admiration for Chihiro's sister, Kei, and adores her.

Shuichi Kuze

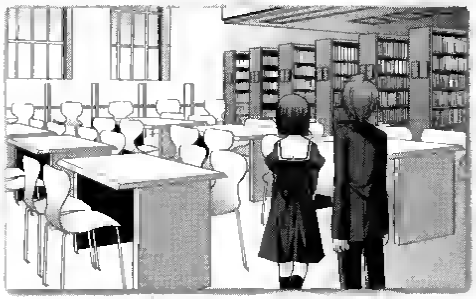
A spirited pro violinist who lives next to the Asou family. He behaves like an optimistic and passionate person, but he's actually a realist.

Sumire Asou

The doting mother of Renji. She has such a baby face and playfulness that she's often been mistaken as Renji's sister. She is working as a lecturer of a culinary classroom in the town.

Two. Only, Two.

Phase.42 The Beginning of the Tale



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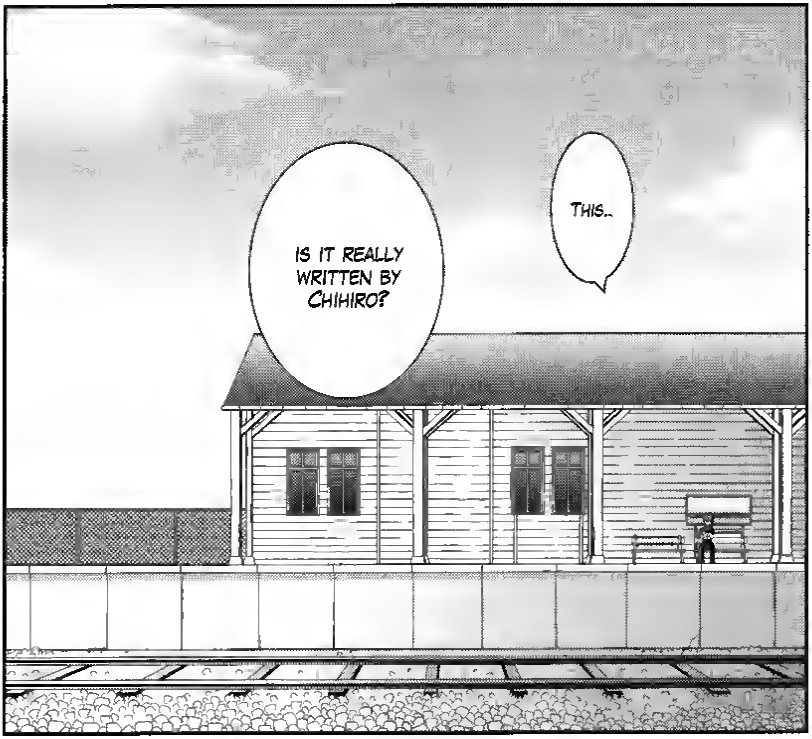
SIMILAR CONTENT WRITTEN END-LESSLY...
WHAT'S... WITH THIS?
パラ
パラ
パラ
EACH DAY'S CHIHIRO IS PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT THE SAME THING REPEATEDLY
WHICH WOULD GENERATE A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION
MORE-OVER,
THIS STORY BARELY HAS ANY NOUNS...

THE SCENERY OF THE WORLD THE GIRL LIVES FLOWS INTO MY MIND.
THE WRITING STYLE AND COMPOSITION ISN'T PARTICULARLY GOOD...
HOWEVER,
ぶるっ

SFX: Shivers

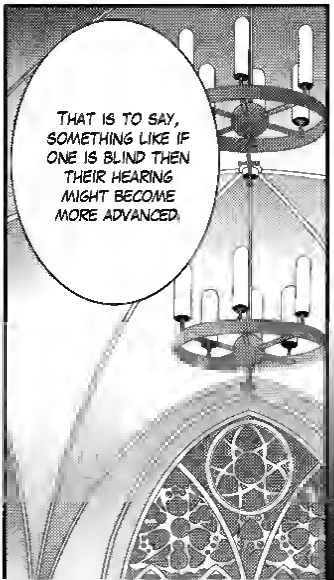

IS IT REALLY WRITTEN BY CHIHIRO?
THIS..

THAT'S A SIMPLE THING.
RENJI, YOU KNOW THAT CHIHIRO WRITES IN HER DIARY, LEAVING IT FOR THE CHIHIRO OF TOMORROW, RIGHT?
YEAH.
CHIHIRO'S DIARY IS FOR ALLOWING OTHERS TO ACCURATELY UNDERSTAND ABOUT HER ACTIONS.
THAT'S THE MAIN PURPOSE
THE CHIHIRO TODAY AND TOMORROW ARE TWO STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER.
I SEE... BUT

CHIHIRO
SHOULDN'T BE ABLE ACCUMULATE THAT KIND OF SKILL...

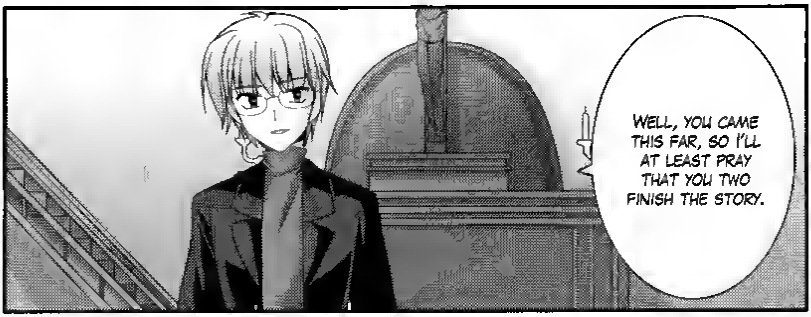
THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT IT IS LEARNED, RATHER
THAT SHE ORIGINALLY HAD SUCH A TALENT.

Hm

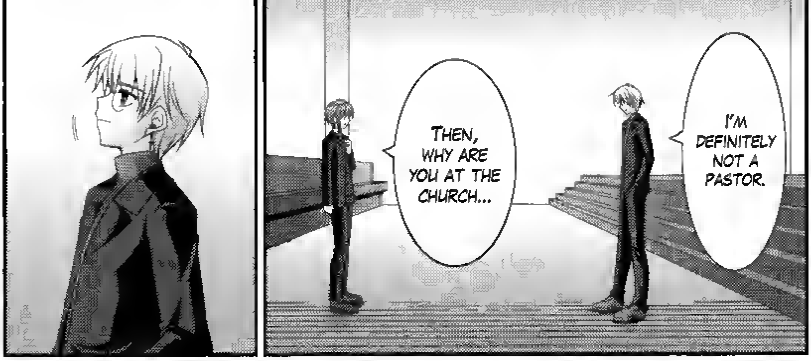

THAT IS TO SAY, SOMETHING LIKE IF ONE IS BLIND THEN THEIR HEARING MIGHT BECOME MORE ADVANCED.

EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER, HER BODY COULD HAVE REMEMBERED.
IT MIGHT EVEN BE HER PERSISTENT WILL TO CONVEY HERSELF TO OTHERS THAT CREATED THE DIFFERENCE.

I CAN'T BE ASSERTIVE.
HOWEVER, AS LONG AS THERE IS A PROBLEM, THERE'LL BE AN ASPECT THAT BECOMES MORE SENSITIVE.
IN SHORT...
CHIHIRO CAN'T MAINTAIN HER MEMORY. INSTEAD, HER ABILITY TO CONVEY TO HERSELF AND OTHERS IS STRENGTHENED.
WAS THE STORY THAT CHIHIRO WROTE REALLY THAT AMA-ZING?
EH?
AAH, WELL...


WELL, YOU CAME THIS FAR, SO I'LL AT LEAST PRAY THAT YOU TWO FINISH THE STORY.

SPEAK-ING OF WHICH
UM...
HIMURA-SAN ISN'T REALLY A PASTOR, RIGHT?


I'M DEFINITELY NOT A PASTOR.
THEN, WHY ARE YOU AT THE CHURCH...

I WAS WAITING FOR SOMEONE.

...PAST TENSE?
YEAH

A PERSON HIMURA-SAN IS WAITING FOR.
RENJI.
I'M NOT A PASTOR, NOR A COUNSELOR.
SO, I'M A PERSON THAT REALLY HAS NO QUALIFICATIONS TO PREACH
EVEN SO,
LET ME WARN YOU.
WRITING A NOVEL. OR PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS.
DON'T DIVE TOO DEEP INTO CHIHIRO HERSELF.

CHIHIRO STILL ISN'T HERE... HUH.
SFX: Sits down
カタン.
UM.
RENJI-KUN... RIGHT?
THE SKY THAT I SEE EVERY DAY, IS NOT AN EVERYDAY THING TO CHIHIRO...

YEAH, THAT'S ME.
SORRY FOR HAVING YOU WAIT.
IT'S FINE, I DIDN'T REALLY COME ON THE PROMISED TIME EITHER.
..SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT IS MUCH COOLER OUT TODAY.
YEAH..
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Ahchoo!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... SAWY.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM YOUR COLD, SO MOVING TO A WARMER PLACE WOULD BE. AH
IF IT'S OKAY, HOW ABOUT COMING TO MY HOUSE?
Sniff
音羽
UTOWA
ななはま
Nanahama
ER...
IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
IF CHIHIRO DOESN'T MIND
Aha-ha
Aha
WE-WELL, LET'S GO
...THINKING ABOUT A BOY'S HOUSE SOMEHOW MAKES MY HEART RACE
N-NOW THAT YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT IT'S ALSO MAKING MY HEART RACE...
おとわ

LAST BOSS
IN MY HOUSE, THERE'S THAT KIND OF MOTHER...!
RENJI-KUN... WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DAMN...
...CHIHIRO
THERE IS A PERSON THAT DOES WHATEVER THEY WANT LIVING WITH ME, BUT DON'T BE BOTHERED.
...?
OKAY, SURE.
ガ
イヤ

Oh, Renji
You're quite early today...Oh?
Come in
opens
closes
opens
Oh my, oh my, oh my?

Erm...
This is the friend I talked about before.
Nice to meet you, I am Shindou Chihiro.

Oh my, oh my~
Are you unable to say something other than "oh my?"
So that friend was a girl~
I am Asou Sumire, nice to meet you too.
Um, are you Renji-kun's older sister?

WIFE.
!!!?

.....
CHIHIRO, PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT SHE IS ACTUALLY MY MOTHER...
EH, MOTHER?

UM-CAN WE COME INSIDE NOW?
OH RIGHT. PLEASE, PLEASE
SORRY TO BOTHER.

YES.

S-SOMEHOW, SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT MAKES ME BLUSH.
SO THIS IS WHAT A GUY'S ROOM IS LIKE.
IT SMELLS DIFFERENT.
COME IN.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BOOKS.
...AH.

RENJI-KUN ALSO HAS KAEDE YUZUMA-SAN'S BOOKS.
DO YOU LIKE HER BOOKS?
YEAH.
I BEGAN TO LIKE READING THIS AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS, AND THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I SHOULD WRITE A BOOK MYSELF
I SEE...
NOW THAT YOU SAY SO, IT SURE FEELS THE SAME
Chihiro and the author's writing
SHE PROBABLY HAD A GREAT IN-FLUENCE ON ME,
BE-CAUSE SHE'S AN AUTHOR THAT I REALLY LIKE
SPEAKING OF NOVELS,
I READ YOUR IDEA BOOK.
U...
AS I THOUGHT, THAT TOPIC IS UNAVOID-ABLE.
どよ
ANY-WAYS, SIT DOWN
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
ﾊｲﾊｲ

Hmph.
. SAVE YOUR FLATTERY.
CHIHIRO'S SHORT STORY WAS REALLY INTERESTING
THIS ISN'T FLATTERY,
IT'S HOW I REALLY FELT.
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST AN IDEA, THE SCENERY WAS FLOWING TO MY MIND CONTINUOUSLY
DO YOU HANDWRITE THE STORY?
NO. I USE A NOTEBOOK COMPUTER.
THEN, LET'S BEGIN.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT'S CUTE ABOUT HER
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE PEOPLE LOOKING AT HER WRITING
LET'S PRETEND THAT THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
.....

I AM ABLE TO TYPE AND SEND E-MAILS.
I BEGAN TO USE A COMPUTER SINCE I WAS SMALL.
SO YOU USED A COMPUTER.
THEN, EVEN AT THE STATION YOU CAN CONTINUE TO WRITE THE STORY.
NO. WITHOUT ANY RESOURCES, I WOULD BE UNABLE TO WRITE.
OH. I SEE.

SPEAKING OF RESOURCES, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BOOKS, RIGHT?
YEAH
THE GIRL INSIDE THE STORY ALSO COMES IN CONTACT WITH LOTS OF BOOKS.
clink
BOOKS ...HUH
AH.
AND THIS TOWN HAS NO PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE BOOKS INSIDE MY HOUSE ARE LIMITED.

CHIHIRO, HOW ABOUT THE LIBRARY AT SCHOOL?
AH, IT'S REALLY CLOSE TO THE IMAGE THAT I IMAGINED
HMMMM
...HOWEVER, I DON'T HAVE A SCHOOL UNIFORM, SO WOULD I BE ABLE TO ENTER ?
OH RIGHT, THE UNIFORM.

ANYWAYS, WE'LL SAVE THAT PLACE AS A CHOICE FOR NOW.
...UM, RENJI-KUN.
MM?
IN ORDER TO WRITE THIS SHORT STORY, THERE'S A REALLY IMPORTANT FAVOR THAT I HAVE TO ASK.

Please create a situation where I have to continue writing the story.
Eh?
The me today can write because there is still time left until the promised time
So, the feeling still hasn't passed away but-
Tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, there aren't any guarantees
I will try my best... but
This will probably be the hardest part.

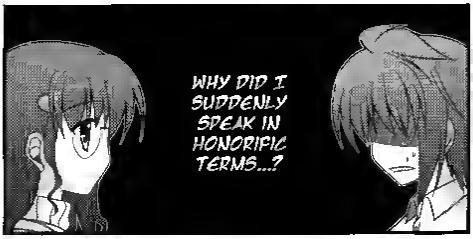
ガチャッ
Ah.
Chihiro-chan, if it's okay, why don't you stay for dinner?
Ah, I'm fine.
But thank you for your offer.
Chihiro, is it really okay that I don't walk you back?
Yes. It's still bright outside
I see
Be careful going back.
Come again anytime to play
Yes
Then, I'll see you at the usual place tomorrow.

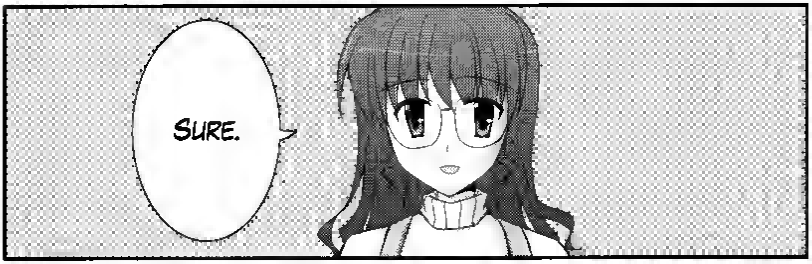
WHAT?
SO YOUR FRIEND WAS A GIRL~
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
YOU CAN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER IMMEDIATELY RIGHT AFTER YOU INVITE HER INTO YOUR ROOM.
GIRLS ARE VERY DELICATE ♡
kyaa♡
WHY DID IT COME TO SUCH A TOPIC...?
AS A MOTHER, I'M JUST A BIT WORRIED.

RENJI SEEMS TO BE GETTING MORE ACCUSTOMED TO THE SCHOOL.
You've transferred a lot
—AAH
MOM'S JUST CARING FOR ME IN HER OWN WAY.
THAT'S RIGHT. SPEAKING OF SCHOOL——
MOM IS THERE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT THEIR OTOWA UNIFORM?
EH, WHY?
AH... THERE'S A GIRL THAT I KNOW THAT'S GOING TO BE A TRANSPER STUDENT.
BUYING A NEW ONE WOULD COST MONEY.

IS THERE A GIRL IN THE COOKING CLASS THAT HAS A UNIFORM THAT THEY DON'T USE ANYMORE?
IF IT'S OKAY, I HOPE THAT YOU CAN ASK...

.....


WHY DID I SUDDENLY SPEAK IN HONORIFIC TERMS...?


SURE.

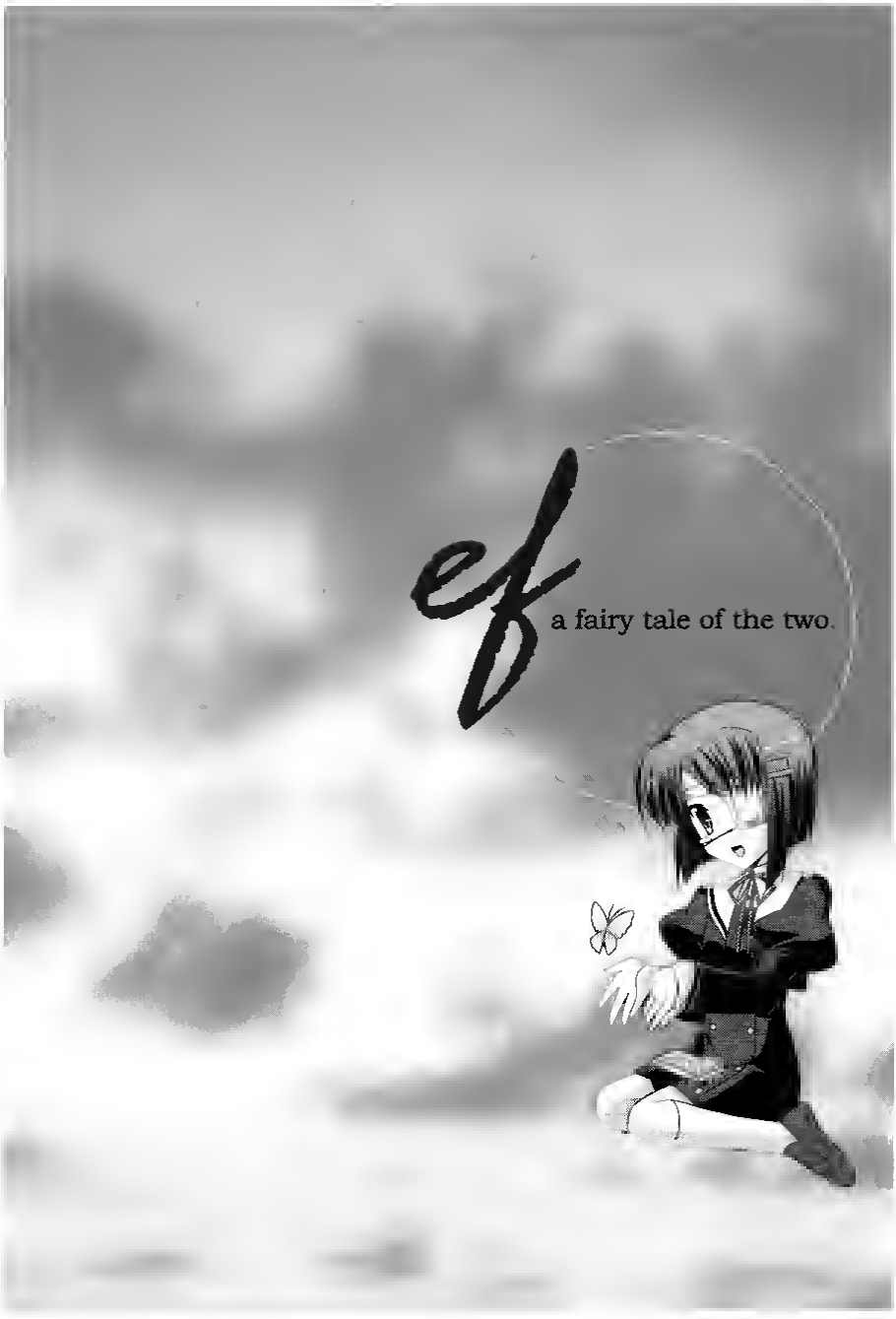
THIS SORT OF TOPIC OCCURS A LOT.
I-I SEE, THAT'S A RELIEF.

AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH
WH-WHAT?

A GIRL'S UNIFORM...

EH, YOU...
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE CHIHIRO-CHAN?
EH?

YOU ARE...?
THAT'S RIGHT!
Pant
IT SEEMS LIKE KUZE-SAN HAS ONE.
A girl's uniform.
HEH?
KUZE-SAN..
WHY WOULD HE?


ef
a fairy tale of the two.

AS I THOUGHT, IT'S CHIHIRO-CHAN.
MEETING YOU AT THIS KIND OF PLACE, HOW UNEXPECTED.
UM... SORRY.
I'm not some suspicious guy
AH, SORRY.
MY NAME IS KUZE SHUICHI. EVEN THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS, I'M HIMURA'S FRIEND.
HIMURA-SAN'S FRIEND...?
YEAH.

I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN YOU A FEW TIMES.
I KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU.
I... SEE.
SORRY.
NO, NO. THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
Even though I said we've met it was only a few times.
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO THE CHURCH?
AH, YES.
?
IT'S ABOUT TO GET DARK.
I'LL ESCORT YOU.
..HMM.

EH . THAT WOULD BE A BOTHER FOR YOU.
AFTER MEETING A FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE, IT'S AGAINST MY POLICY TO JUST GREET AND LEAVE.
POLICY .?
I'VE ALSO GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH HIMURA.
OKAY?
OKAY THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
.....

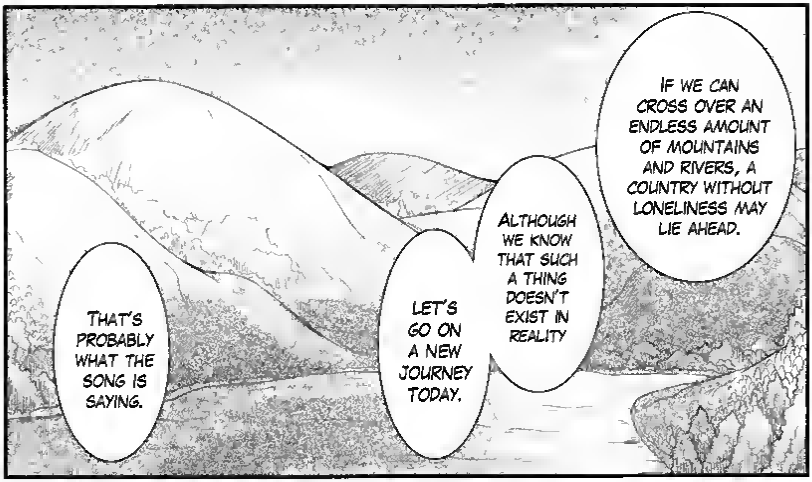
Phase.43　School

HMM.
.....
I DON'T REMEMBER HAVING MET KUZE-SAN THOUGH.
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
AH, NO! IT'S NOTHING ...
OKAY.
THIS PERSON DOES SEEM SIMILAR TO HIMURA-SAN.

IN THE PAST, I LEARNED AN INTERESTING SONG FROM HIM,
THOUGH IT'S MORE LIKE A CLASSIC POEM
THAT'S RIGHT
BUT
IF HIMURA SAW THAT EXPRESSION, HE MIGHT TELL ME OFF AS IF I'D DONE SOMETHING.
Pat
Pat
EH!

Note: Wakayama Bokusui was a Japanese poet.

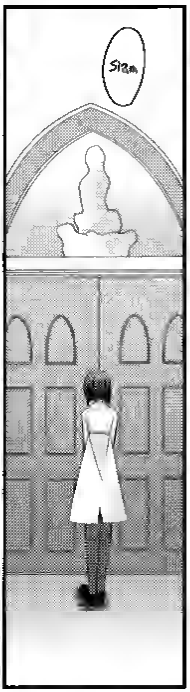
NO MATTER HOW MANY MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, AS LONG AS WE CROSS OVER THEM, WE'LL SEE
THE COUNTRY WITHOUT LONELINESS. TODAY WE'LL ALSO GO ON A JOURNEY.
WAKAYAMA BOKUSUI
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


IF WE CAN CROSS OVER AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, A COUNTRY WITHOUT LONELINESS MAY LIE AHEAD.
ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT SUCH A THING DOESN'T EXIST IN REALITY
LET'S GO ON A NEW JOURNEY TODAY.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THE SONG IS SAYING.

THAT'S ABOUT ME?
NO...
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. IT WAS SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU THAT MADE ME REMEMBER IT.
SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME-

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I
DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIMURA-SAN.
ONLY A FEW OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES BEFORE THE ACCIDENT-

Haa.


Sigh.

JUST A MOMENT, I'LL CALL HIMURA.

...IT'S COLD.

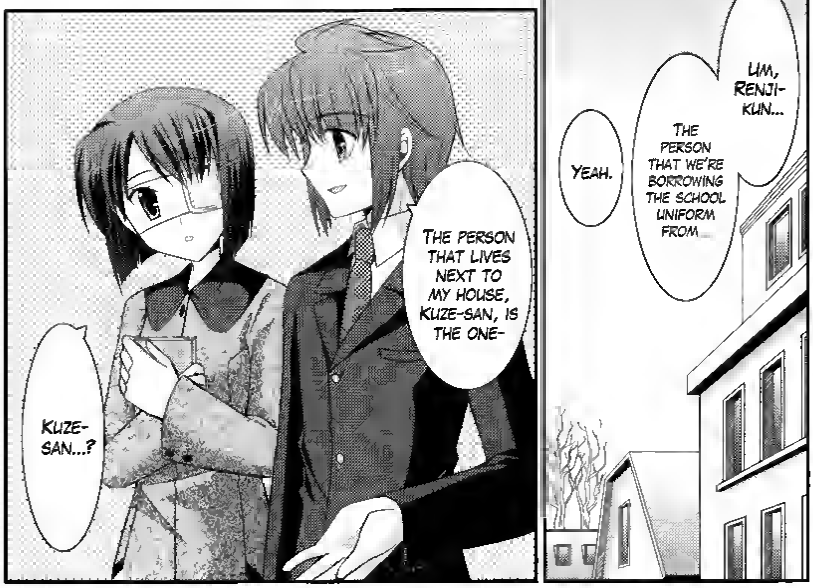
...?
OKAY.

WELCOME BACK, CHIHIRO.
ギッ
I'M HOME.
WAS TODAY ENJOYABLE AS WELL?
YEAH, VERY.
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD.
WAS IT BECAUSE KUZE ESCORTED YOU BACK?

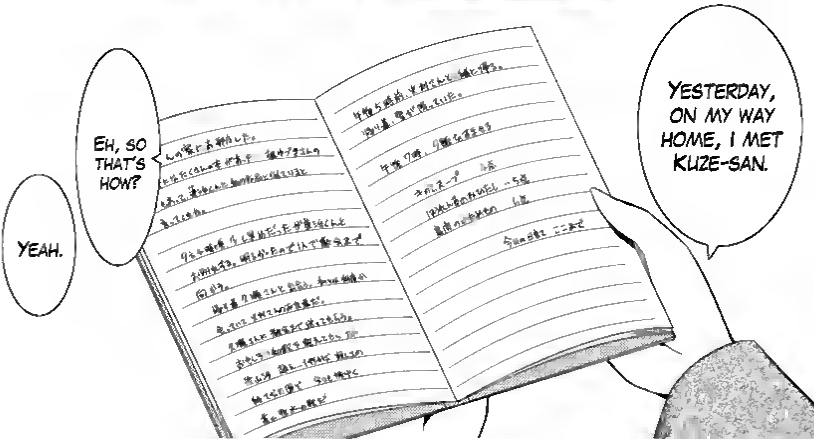
HIMURA-SAN'S HAND IS SO GENTLE,
BUT
WELL THEN, LET'S HEAD BACK.
THE WAY HE TOUCHES WITHOUT WARMTH
FEELS LIKE HE'S FAR AWAY ..
BE CAREFUL.

IT SEEMS AS IF EVERY-ONE I SEE EXISTS AT A DISTAN-CE
ONLY RENJI KUN SEEMS TO BE CLOSE HOWEVER
THAT COULD JUST BE AN ILLUSION
BECAUSE ONCE TO-MORROW CO
THAT MEMORY WILL DISAPPEAR...

Aw
Aw
Aw
Haa
Haa
CHIHIRO-!
HAA... HAA... HELLO!
RENJI-KUN... RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG, THAT YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY?
EH...?
I SAID IT YESTERDAY, ABOUT THE SCHOOL UNIFORM...
Haa
Haa
IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF IT.
LET'S HEAD OVER TO THAT PERSON'S HOME RIGHT AWAY!


UM, RENJI-KUN...
THE PERSON THAT WE'RE BORROWING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM FROM...
YEAH.
THE PERSON THAT LIVES NEXT TO MY HOUSE, KUZE-SAN, IS THE ONE-
KUZE-SAN...?

EH, DO YOU KNOW KUZE-SAN?


YESTERDAY, ON MY WAY HOME, I MET KUZE-SAN.
EH, SO THAT'S HOW?
YEAH.

He's Himura-san's friend.
Yeah, looks that way.
I see if he's already met Chihiro, then it won't take long.
ピンポーン
ガチャっ
Yo. Renji.
...and Chihiro-chan?
Hello, Kuze-san. Thanks for taking care of me yesterday.
It's nothing, really.
Kuze-san, about the school uniform we talked about yesterday..

AAH, I HAVE IT PREPARED.
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME IN.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT BIG, BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE ALRIGHT, I THINK.
...YOU REALLY HAD IT.
WHEN YOU'RE BORED OF DOING THE SAME THING, WEARING IT AND TAKING HALF OF IT OFF FEELS AMAZING, YOU KNOW?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US THAT SORT OF THING...
UM..
WHAT SORT OF THING?
.....
?

KUZE-SAN!!
RENJI WANTS TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT?
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU CHECK THE SIZE OF IT RIGHT NOW.
OF COURSE
EH... IS THAT ALRIGHT?

CHIHIRO-CHAN, IF IT'S ALRIGHT, TRY IT ON RIGHT NOW.

GO AND TRY IT ON, CHIHIRO.

UM...

JUST GO INTO THAT ROOM AND CHANGE.

SFX: Door Closes
AH OKAY
THEN...
ばたん
...OTOWA ACADEMY'S UNIFORM...
SAY,
YESTERDAY, IT WAS QUITE SUDDEN WHEN YOU ASKED, "DO YOU HAVE A GIRL'S UNIFORM".
I WAS REALLY SHOCKED THAT YOU WERE INTO GIRL'S OUTFITS.
..DO I LOOK LIKE I HAVE THAT KIND OF INTEREST?

I THINK IT WOULD FIT YOU? NO, IT'S NOT A JOKE.
.....
I SERI-- OUSLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS PERSON IS THINKING...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY DOES MY MOTHER KNOW ABOUT YOU HAVING A UNIFORM?
EH?
I WANTED HER TO WEAR IT.
I THOUGHT IT'D SUIT HER, BUT SHE POLITELY REFUSED.
THIS PERSON'S FOR REAL ...!!
Why are you backing away?

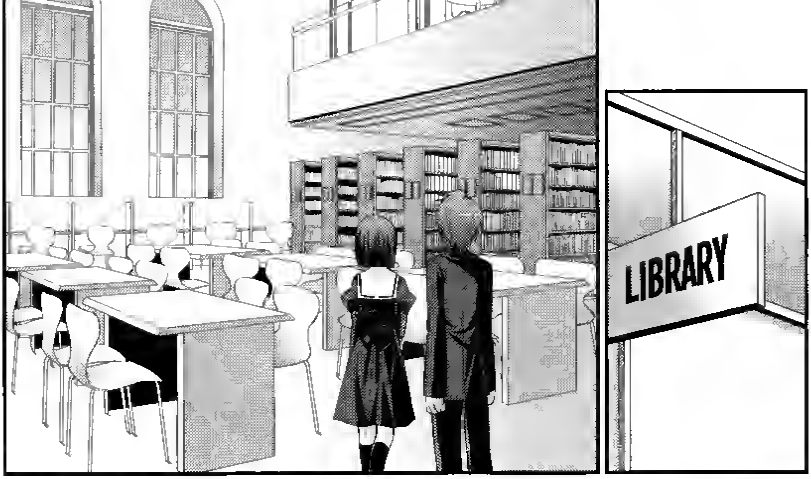
THE UNIFORM. IT'S FINE THAT IT'S FROM OTOWA, RIGHT?
...I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW, BUT
Dodges-
YOU HAVE OTHER KINDS?
AS LONG AS YOU ASK, I'D HAVE ALMOST ANY TYPE AT MY DISPOSAL.
.....
HMM... WELL
WHEN YOU'RE ALSO STUCK IN A RUT, DON'T HOLD BACK TO ASK ONII-SAN!
I'M FINE!
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF INTEREST!!
UM... I'VE FINISHED CHANGING
Opens
ひょこ」

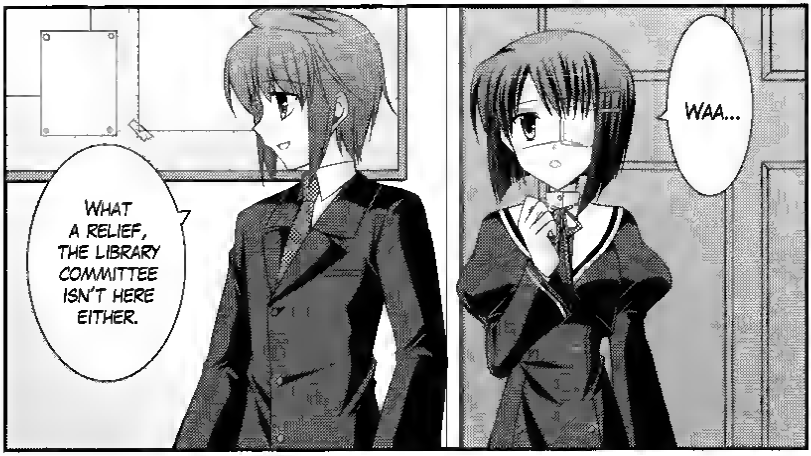
HOHO..
THIS SURE IS...
.....
SFX: Blush
UM... RENJI-KUN, HOW IS IT?
Y-YEAH...IT REALLY SUITS YOU, Y-YEAH.. IT REALLY SUITS YOU
THIS IS BAD... I THOUGHT I'D BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING OTOWA'S UNIFORM BUT
SHE'S CUTE
I'M SO GLAD...
AAH, IT SURE IS GOOD TO BE YOUNG~
EVEN I'M FEELING BITTER-SWEET
KUZE-SAN.. THAT WAY OF TALKING IS VERY MUCH LIKE AN OLD MAN

CHIHIRO-CHAN, HOW'S THE SIZE?
OH, RIGHT. THERE'S NO PROBLEM, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
UM... RENJI-KUN.
The same uniform as Onee-chan...
I HAVE A
REQUEST..

AHUU...
SOMEHOW I'M FEELING A BIT NERVOUS...
DON'T WORRY. IT'S AFTER SCHOOL ANYWAY, SO JUST ACT NORMAL AND NO ONE WILL SUSPECT A THING
BUT...IS IT REALLY OKAY?
WE BORROWED THAT UNIFORM FOR THIS PURPOSE,
AND YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SAID "I WANT TO GO SEE THE SCHOOL NOW?"
UU...
ALL RIGHT, WE'VE ALREADY MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE
LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY
O-OKAY...

HEY,
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND SO ISN'T IT FINE?
.....
CHI-HIRO?
...SCHOOL.
SOMEHOW IT FEELS CLOSE, YET...
SO FAR AWAY.
...I SEE.


LIBRARY


WAA...
WHAT A RELIEF, THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE ISN'T HERE EITHER.

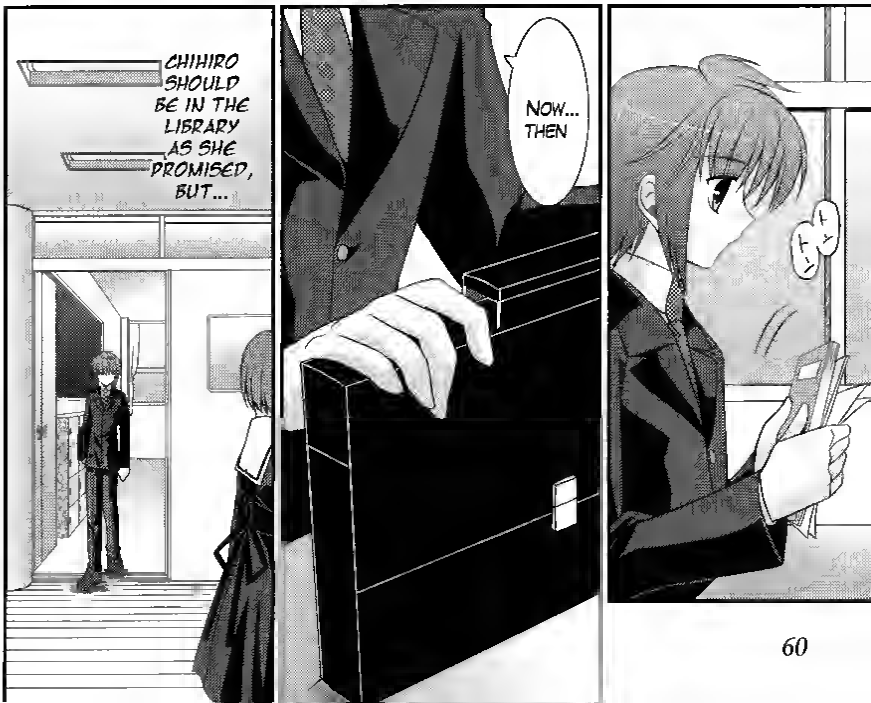
IT SMELLS LIKE BOOKS ...
CHIHIRO REALLY LIKES BOOKS, HUH?

EH... IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
SINCE IT'S SUCH A RARE OPPORTUNITY, JUST LOOK AROUND FREELY AND READ SOME BOOKS TODAY.
I'LL BE READING ALONG WITH YOU.
AH, YEAH.
YOU WANTED TO WRITE THE STORY UNDER THE ATMOSPHERE OF LOTS OF BOOKS, RIGHT?

ふむ
.....
WHEN SHE'S IN HER CASUAL CLOTHES, SHE LOOKS YOUNGER, BUT
IN A UNIFORM HER IMPRESSION CHANGES.
...IN THIS MANNER

BECAUSE IT WAS SUNSET, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE CHIHIRO'S EXPRESSION CLEARLY... BUT
I'D NEVER EVEN CONSI-DERED.
IN THIS MANNER, BEING ABLE TO READ A BOOK AT SCHOOL AGAIN... SUCH A THING,
UP UNTIL NOW
THAT VOICE WAS THE MOST GENTLE VOICE I HAD EVER HEARD.
THANK YOU
RENJI-KUN.

ALRIGHT, TODAY'S CLASSES WILL END HERE...

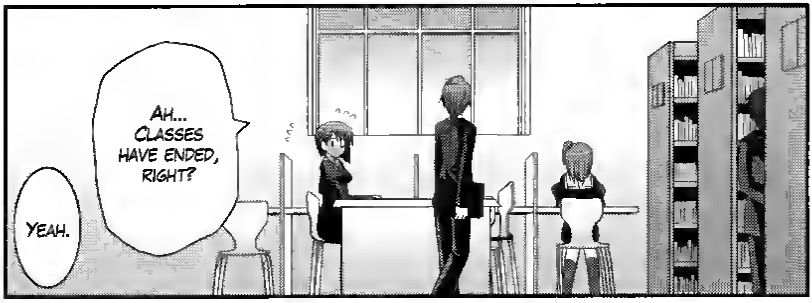

CHIHIRO SHOULD BE IN THE LIBRARY AS SHE PROMISED, BUT...
NOW... THEN

CREAK
THERE SHE IS...

.....

HELLO. CHIHIRO, IT'S RENJI.
... HELLO.

Eh


AH... CLASSES HAVE ENDED, RIGHT?
YEAH.

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
DURING LUNCH BREAK...

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD STAND OUT THE LEAST AROUND THAT TIME.

...COULD IT BE, THAT IT WAS HARD GETTING IN?
JUST A BIT...
BUT IT'S FINE SINCE I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SEVERAL REFEREN-CES.
I SEE.
THEN, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE, LET'S BEGIN WRITING THE NOVEL TODAY.
AL-RIGHT.
I'M READY.

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

ONE DAY, THE GIRL FOUND PLANT SEEDS IN THE STORAGE ROOM.
AFTERWARDS, SHE PLANTED THE SEEDS IN THE MANSION'S GARDEN.
THIS WAS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL RED FRUIT, KNOWN AS STRAWBERRY THAT WAS PRINTED ON THE BAG CONTAINING THE SEEDS

SHE FOLLOWED WHAT THE GARDENING BOOK SAID, LOOSENING THE SOIL, SPREADING OUT THE SEEDS, AND WATERING THEM AS WELL.
HOWEVER, NO ROOTS CAME OUT, AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE REPEATED THE SAME ACTIONS, SHE COULD NOT MAKE THE SEEDS BEAR FRUIT.
EVEN WHEN THE ROOTS SPROUTED, THEY WOULD END UP WILTING IMMEDIA-TELY
SHE THEN UNDERSTOOD THAT IN ORDER TO HARVEST A SEED, THE SOIL, SEASON, AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME WOULD BE ESSENTIAL.
IN THIS MANNER, SHE LEARNED THROUGH ONE FAILURE AFTER ANOTHER.

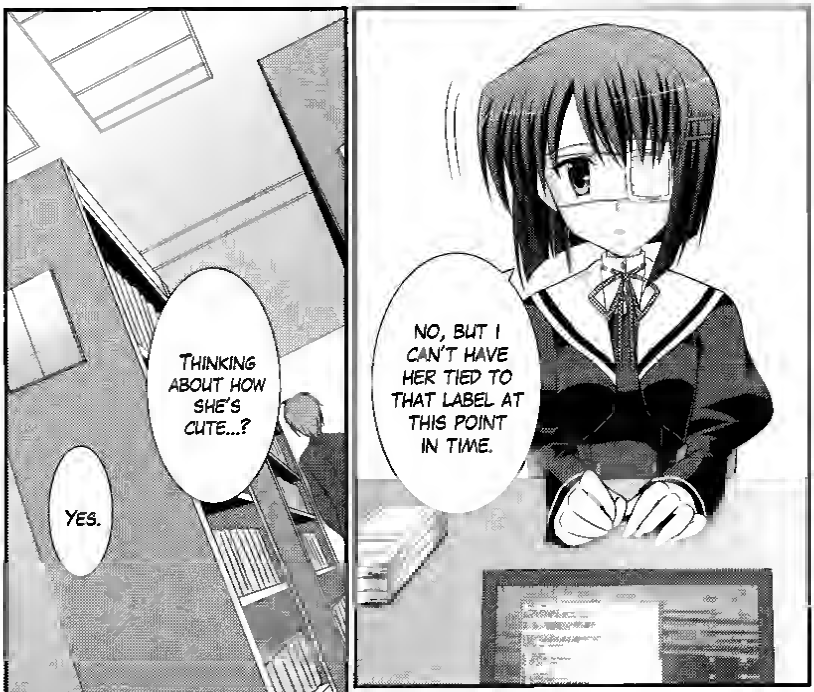
IT WAS BECAUSE SHE LEARNED ABOUT THE RAISING OF A SIGNAL FIRE IN A USELESS BOOK THAT HAD BEEN WHAT PEOPLE HAD DONE WHEN THEY WERE WASHED TO THE SHORE OF AN "ISLAND".
THE NEXT DAY, SHE BUILT A FIRE NEAR THE SHORE.
AS THE WHITE SMOKE ROSE SHE THOUGHT THAT IT COULD BE THE SAME AS THE CLOUDS, BUT AS SHE PUT HER FACE IN IT SHE ENDED UP COUGHING
MOVING BACK IN PANIC, SHE STARED AT IT FROM A DISTANCE.
OF COURSE, THE FIRE EVEN-TUALLY BURNT OUT.
THAT WAS HOW IT WAS IT WAS SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED
SO THE GIRL REALIZED-

Phase.44

Swelling Emotions

...I SEE.
THIS GIRL SURE HAS SOME UNEXPECTED CUTE SIDES.
...CUTE?
YEAH.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE WAY SHE CONTINUES TO NEVER GIVE UP, NO MATTER HOW MANY FAILURES, IS INTERESTING.
I... SEE.
?

AS I THOUGHT, I SHOULD PROBABLY START OVER...
EH, WHY?
BECAUSE YOU SAID SHE WAS CUTE.
IS THAT A BAD THING?


NO, BUT I CAN'T HAVE HER TIED TO THAT LABEL AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
THINKING ABOUT HOW SHE'S CUTE...?
YES.

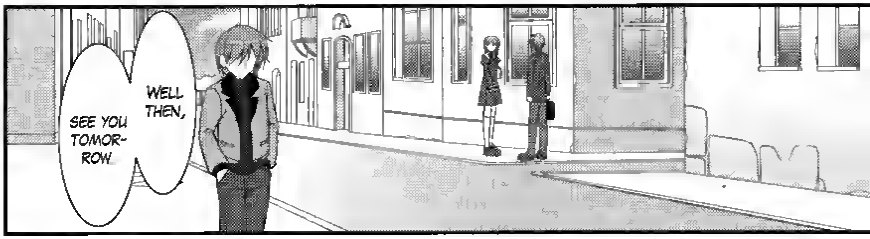
This girl is supposed to be stranger.
When she does something that we consider as foolish,
It should bring an eerie feeling...
If it's just "cute" or "interesting"...
Um...
.....
Renji-kun.

THANK YOU.
IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT?
.....
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A LITTLE, I THOUGHT I COULD BE OF SOME HELP DESPITE HAVING STARTED ON THIS NOVEL,
CHIHIRO'S WAY OF THINKING IS BEYOND MY GRASP NO—
Is sister doing homework?
MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT I'M TOO NORMAL

PEOPLE WITH TALENT MAKE ME JEALOUS.
NOT JUST TALENT, ALSO OF THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE GOALS.

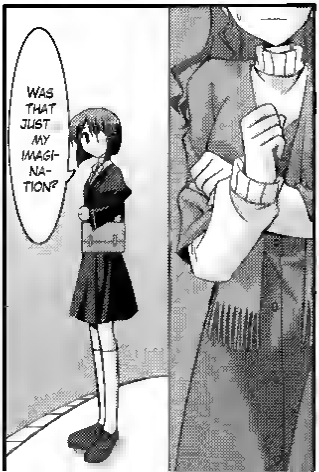
I-

WHAT HOPES DO I REALLY
HAVE IN CHIHIRO?


WELL THEN,
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

YEAH, SEE YOU TOMORROW.

?


WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGI-NATION?

ぶるっ
AH...
AAHN.
I GOT CAUGHT ~~♡
SORRY, I DIDN'T PLAN ON FOLLOWING YOU.
EHH..
UH.. UM...
RENJI WAS ALSO WITH YOU, I COULDN'T CALL OUT TO HIM~
AH..

THANK YOU YOUR HOSPITALITY THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S NOTHING, IT'S NOTHING.
COME BACK TO PLAY ANY TIME.
ARE YOU RENJI-KUN'S MOTHER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HEY, CHIHIRO-CHAN,
BUMPING INTO YOU HERE IS QUITE A COINCI-DENCE.
IF IT'S FINE WITH YOU, COULD WE HAVE SOME TEA OVER THERE?
EH...? RIGHT NOW?
IF YOU HAVE A CURFEW, THEN I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

NO.
AS LONG AS I GET HOME BEFORE IX, IT'LL BE FINE
THEN, WE'RE SET!!

EH! EH...?
きら
きら
きら
THERE'S A DELICIOUS CAKE STORE NEARBY.
LET'S GO EAT THERE TOGETHER!

Let's talk about
Renji-kun
カアア
UAH...
S-SURE...

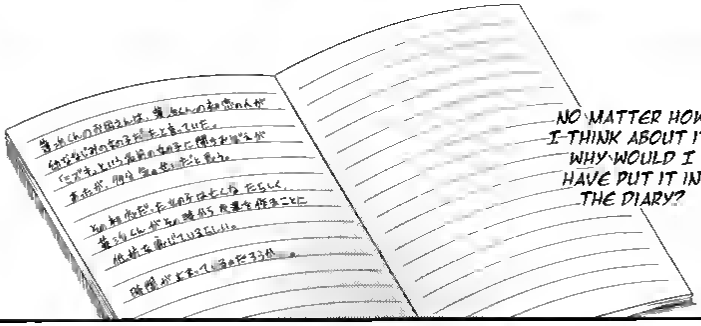
キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
……
UM,
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH! IT'S NOTHING
REALLY?
……
I SEE-

YOUR FIRST LOVE WAS A GUY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, RIGHT?
YES.
HE'S GOOD AT DRAWING, AND WAS ALWAYS PLAYING WITH MY OLDER SISTER, WHILE I LOOKED FROM A DISTANCE.
FHUFHU! IT'S MAKING MY HEART RACE!
RENJI'S FIRST LOVE HMM... WAS PROBABLY HIS COUSIN, MIZUKI-CHAN.
THE TWO OF THEM REALLY GOT ALONG.
THAT WAS ONLY WHEN THEY WERE [illegible]. THOUGH SAYING THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED—
SUCH JOKES.
AH...
I MESSED UP.
I FAILED.

WHAT DID YOU MESS UP ON?
NOTHING BIG.
...WOULD IT BE BETTER IF I DIDN'T LISTEN?
CHIHIRO-CHAN ALREADY SPOKE ABOUT HERSELF. NOT SAYING ANYTHING WOULD BE WRONG.
MIZUKI-CHAN, RENJI'S FIRST LOVE, IS GONE, SO
EVERYTHING ENDED.
GONE?

SHE DIED.
IT WAS ALSO PROBABLY AT THAT TIME THAT
HE COULDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS.
SORRY
I JUST WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT CHIHIRO-CHAN'S FIRST LOVE...
I ACCIDENTALLY BLEW MYSELF OVER.
AH...NO, IT'S OKAY
BECAUSE I WILL FORGET.

"BECAUSE I WILL FORGET."


THE ME YESTERDAY...
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WOULD I HAVE PUT IT IN THE DIARY?

BEFORE ME,
THERE WAS A GIRL THAT DISAPPEARED IN FRONT OF RENJI-KUN...
カタン
HOW'S IT GOING, CHIHIRO?
DID YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS?

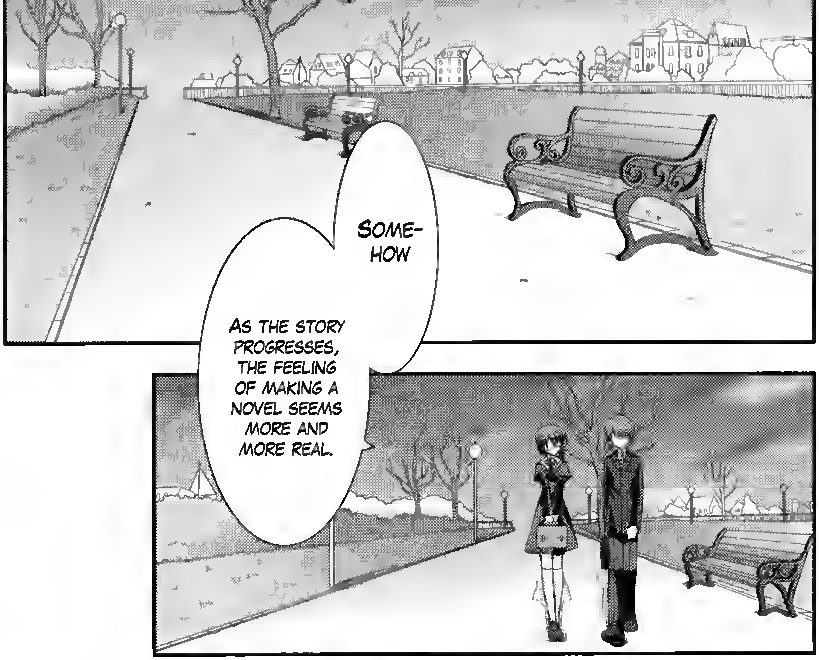
AH, YES.
JUST A BIT...

—SINCE WHEN DID THIS ALL BEGIN?

I WANT TO ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS WITH RENJI-KUN

...I SEE.
STARTING WITH THE INTEREST IN THE EXISTENCE OF HUMANS, THEN, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THAT, SHE BEGAN TO DRAW THE ART OF HUMANS. ?
HOW-EVER..
THERE'S A PART THAT CONCERNS YOU?
HOW DO YOU SEE THE IDEA OF HOW THE GIRL STARTS DRAWING IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HUMANS?
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS
I GUESS WE'D HAVE TO START FROM THE BEGINNING AND REWRITE IT—
I GUESS SO..

ANYWAY,
WE'LL PROGRESS ON THE STORY LIKE THIS, AND WHEN WE SEE A PROBLEM, WE'LL FIX IT THEN.
BUT... HOW LONG WILL WE BE ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS?
OKAY.
TO BE WITH ME
MAY EVEN BE A BIG BURDEN TO RENJI-KUN
WHEN THE STORY REACHES AN END
WILL THE STORY OF RENJI-KUN AND I ALSO END—?


SOME-
HOW
AS THE STORY PROGRESSES, THE FEELING OF MAKING A NOVEL SEEMS MORE AND MORE REAL.

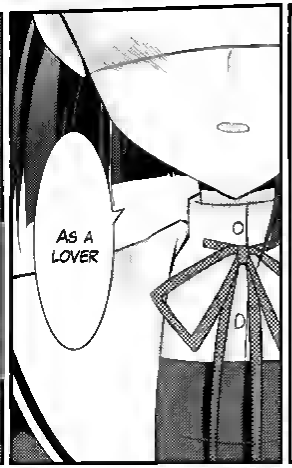
IF CHIHIRO HAD SAID THAT, I'D FEEL BETTER.
THOUGH, IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING.

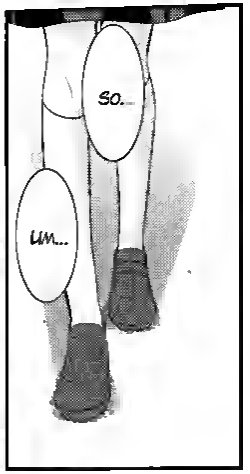
IT'S BECAUSE I'M WITH RENJI-KUN,
THAT I CAN CONTINUE WRITING WITHOUT GIVING UP.

UM...
THANK YOU.
THE STORY...
EVEN IF IT ENDS
?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
UM... RENJI-KUN.
I—

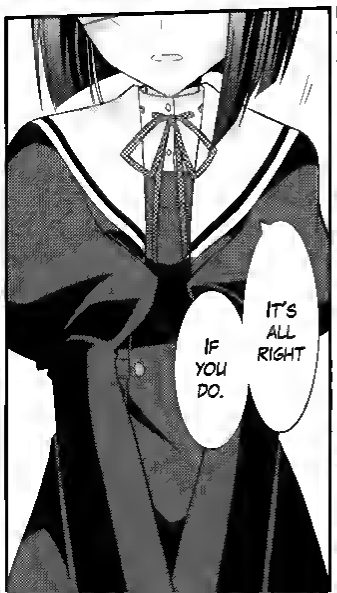
DO YOU
WANT TO KISS ME?

KISS... ME IF YOU WANT TO.


AS A LOVER


SO...
UM...

.....
THAT WAY, IT'LL BE LIKE A PROMISE FOR RENJI-KUN TO CONTINUE MEETING... WITH ME.


IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU DO.

...EH?

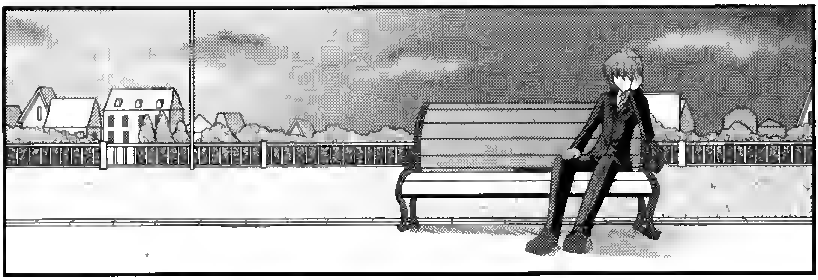
ef
a fairy tale of the two.

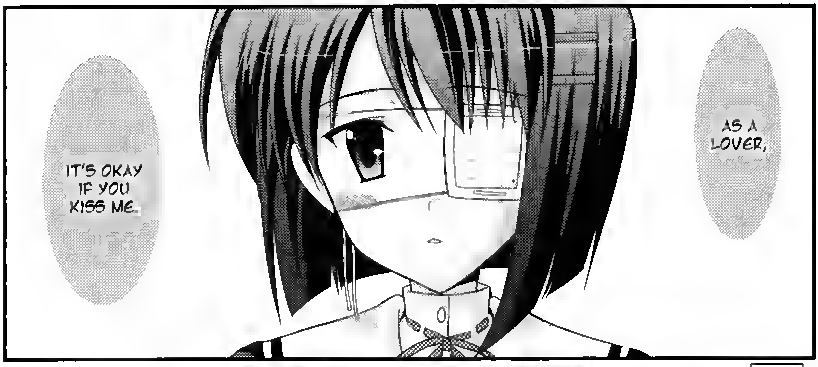
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I MET RENJI-KUN.
SO...
RENJI-KUN SEEMS TO LIKE ME SO...
IT'S OKAY IF YOU KISS ME.

Phase.45 Cross Purposes

.....
WHY-
DID SHE SUDDEN-LY..
UM..
CHI-HIRO..
—SORRY.
I DON'T THINK THIS IS HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

AH...
S-SORRY, I...
... SORRY.
AHH
CHI-HIRO!
DON'T WRITE DOWN ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED TODAY...
PLEASE ...

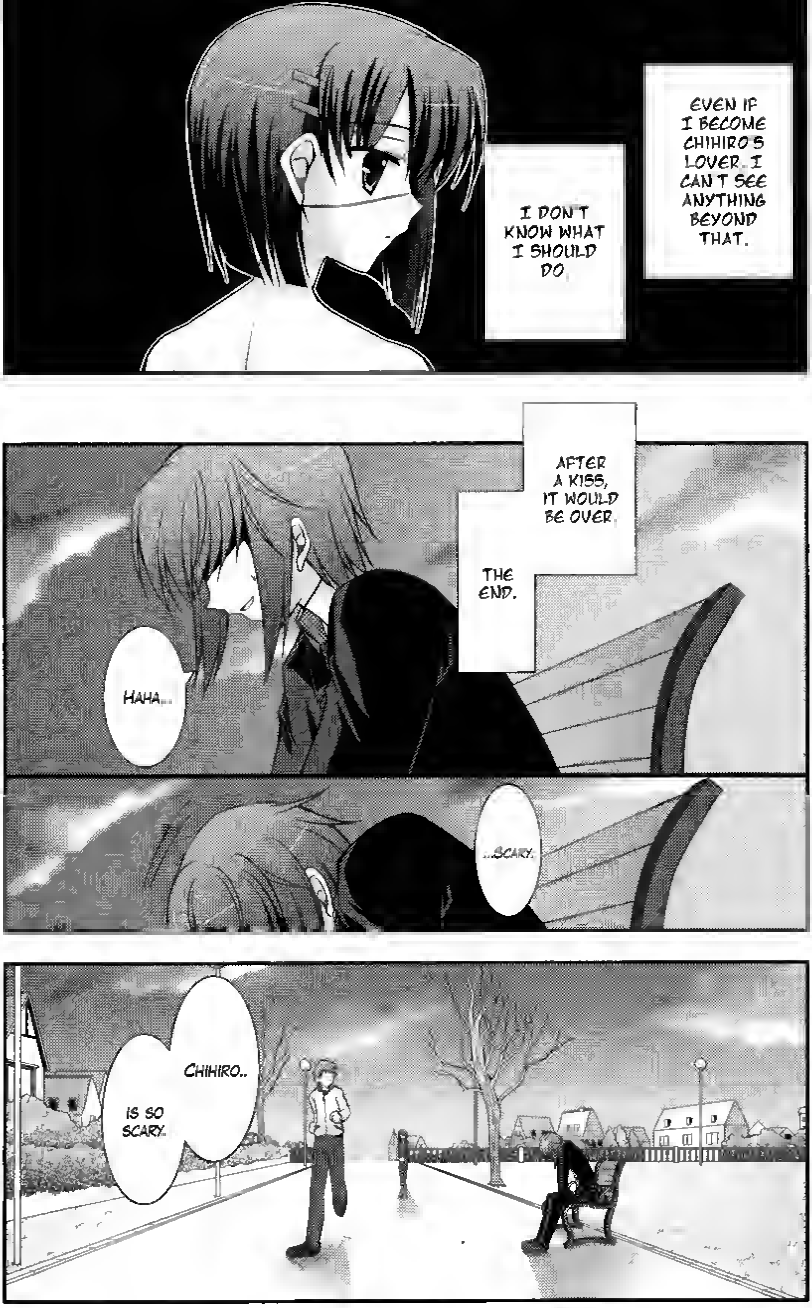



IT'S OKAY IF YOU KISS ME.
AS A LOVER,

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
A LONG TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I MET RENJI-KUN.
RENJI-KUN SEEMS TO LIKE ME SO.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND, CHIHIRO.
WHY...
DID IT BECOME LIKE THAT?

CHIHIRO'S MEMORY WILL RESET EVERY 13 HOURS.
PROBABLY, AFTER READING HER DIARY, SHE DID A SIMULATION.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS...
BEEN COUNTING DOWN LIKE THAT?
ABOUT HOW I LIKE HER,
AFTER OUR MEETING, AND THE TIME THAT HAS PASSED.
THAT'S WHY SHE SAID, "AS LOVERS" LET'S KISS.
TO HER, IT COULD ALREADY BE "THAT TIME."

THE DAY THE STORY ENDS, AT THE SAME TIME, CHIHIRO AS WELL...
THERE IS DEFINITELY AN ENDING TO THE STORY.
AFTER 13 HOURS, HER MEMORIES WILL DISAPPEAR.
EVEN THOUGH I UNDERSTOOD THAT FACT, I ACCOMPANIED CHIHIRO IN ORDER TO FULFILL HER DREAMS, RIGHT?
STILL, I...
DAMN.


EVEN IF I BECOME CHIHIRO'S LOVER, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
AFTER A KISS, IT WOULD BE OVER.
THE END.
HAHA...
...SCARY.
CHIHIRO.. IS SO SCARY.

4ji
4ji
4ji
4ji
ぱら
ぱら
……
SAYING THAT SORT OF THING SO SUDDENLY,
EVEN RENJI-KUN WOULD BE SURPRISED... RIGHT?
I could do Renji-kun
"It's okay if you kiss me."
and he was silent for a time.
I could be that my feelings
of love are slightly greater.
Or perhaps it could just be me
thinking that way.

Renji-kun
if you kiss
s silent fo
be that m
are slightly
haps, it co
SAYING THAT SORT OF THING SO SUDDENLY,
EVEN RENJI-KUN WOULD BE SURPRISED... RIGHT.
♪
!!

To Chihiro,
As usual, it's cold over there,
but over here, it's irritatingly hot

Speaking of irritating, Kyousuke-senpai
confessed to me a while back. But somewhere
inside my mind I'm still thinking about Onii-
chan. I can't respond to Kyousuke senpai under
this condition, so I asked him to wait a li
while before I reply.

Like this, I've been troubled, that usua
sister, as always speaking about happi
Honestly, I feel like it's unnecessary c
but what she says is right.

I really don't know what do to anymo

KYOUSUKE-SENPAI?

ONEE-CHAN.

SFX. Click

In winter this year, an
accident happened during
a basketball game. It seems like I can't
continue to play, retiring in spring.

In the summer, Onee-chan was invited
● by Onii-chan's friend to make a movie.

● Tsutsumi Kyousuke-san
Currently a third year, Onee-chan's
senpai

● Amamiya Yuuko-san
Waiting for someone at the church.
A fake sister—...?

※ If anything happens, please leave a post
script.

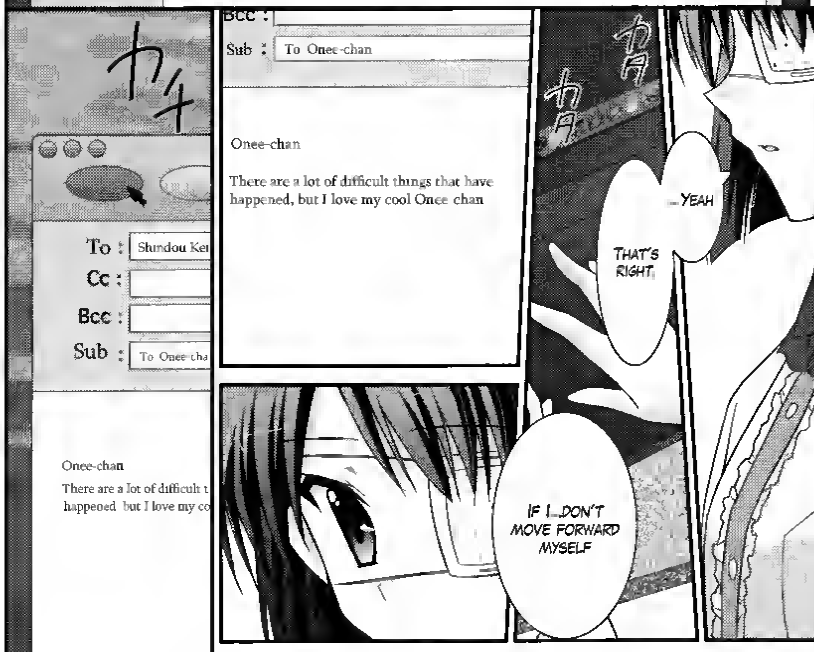
4/7

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

One day, I have to give a response
If I can respond properly, maybe I'd get over Onii-chan?
I have to keep moving forward
I can't stay depressed forever
Nothing will change if I don't move on

Well then, see you tomorrow!
Take care of yourself. Try not to catch a cold or a fever.

Kei

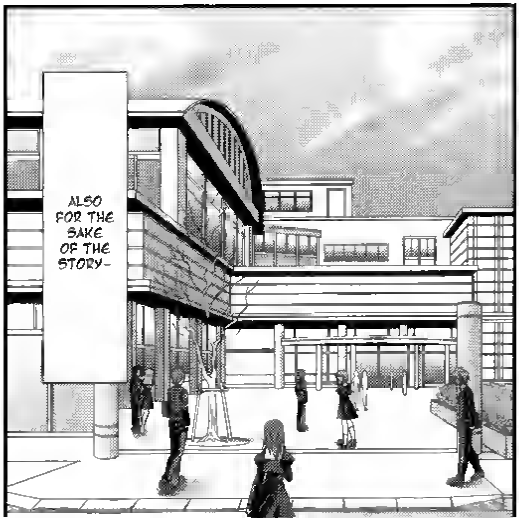


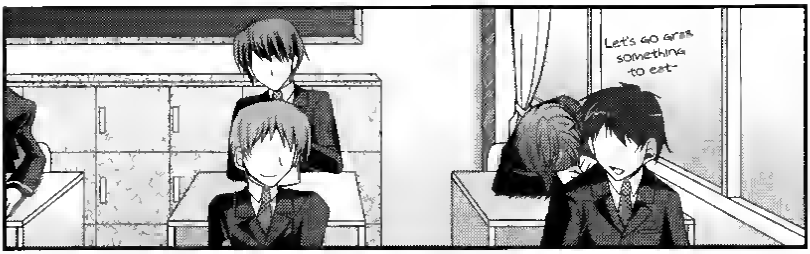
10 entries
Chihiro Story .txt
TODAY, I DIDN'T TELL ONEE-CHAN AGAIN
ABOUT RENJI-KUN.
Sending complete
OK
I SEE...
THE STORY HAS ALREADY PROGRESSED TO THIS POINT...
ARE YOU
AFRAID OF BEING ALONE?
WHAT'S LEFT IS THE GIRL BEGINS TO PAINT..
THE SCENE OF THE BOY INSIDE THE PAINTING COMING OUT TO LIVE, THEN...
THE END.

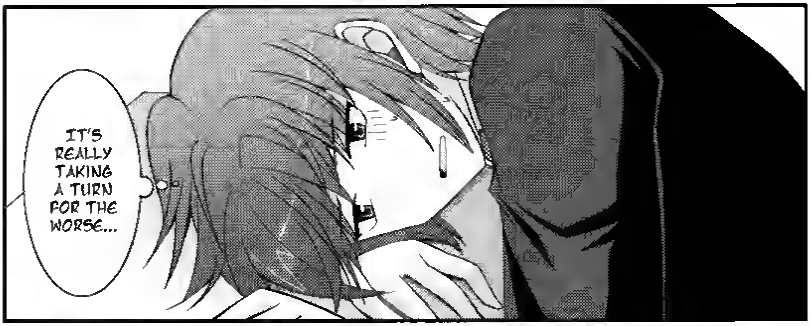
UGH
MY HEAD HURTS ...

IT WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE THE DAY OFF TODAY, BUT...
I MUST MEET UP WITH CHIHIRO

MAYBE I STAYED FOR TOO LONG AT THE PARK YESTERDAY...
Morning
Shake...

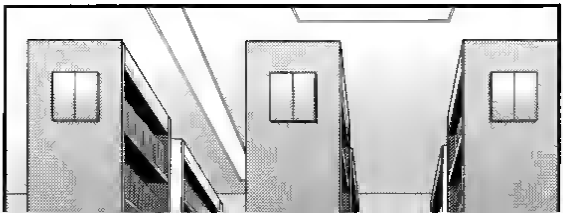

ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF THE STORY-


Let's go grab something to eat.


IT'S REALLY TAKING A TURN FOR THE WORSE...

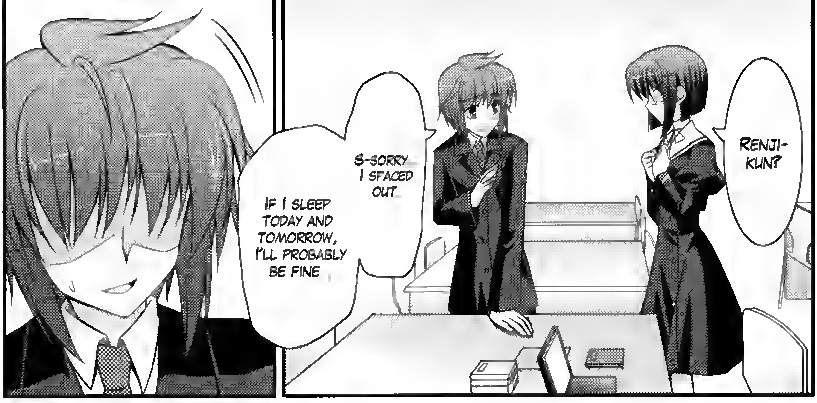
フラ
FIRST, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE WHETHER OR NOT SHE WROTE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY IN THE DIARY

カタ



...PHEW.
?
RENJI-KUN?
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
I JUST CAUGHT A SLIGHT COLD.
I'LL BE HEADING HOME NOW, SO I CAME HERE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT.
THAT'S HORRIBLE... COMING TO SCHOOL WHEN YOU'VE CAUGHT A COLD.
HAHA... YOU'RE RIGHT.
PHEW
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY... SHE DIDN'T WRITE IT IN THE DIARY...

カタン
ARE YOU OKAY?
AH...
AH...
...?


RENJI-KUN?
S-SORRY I SPACED OUT.
IF I SLEEP TODAY AND TOMORROW, I'LL PROBABLY BE FINE

UM... I WON'T COME TO SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS, THEN.
...YEAH, OKAY.

I PRINTED OUT THE STORY THUS FAR.
PLEASE LOOK OVER IT ONCE YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM YOUR COLD.

Well then, I'll be heading home now.
Okay, please be careful.
Thank you
Understood
Chihiro,
Let's finish this story.
Definitely.
Yeah.
Absolutely

Knock Knock
Renji
Kuze-san is here to see how you're doing
Kuze-san?
ガチャ
Hey, Renji.
In place of Sumire-san, I came to take care of you.
Well then, I'll be off to work. Please take care of him, Kuze-san.
Please leave it to me.
And have some tea with me next time, please.
Playing dirty tricks again

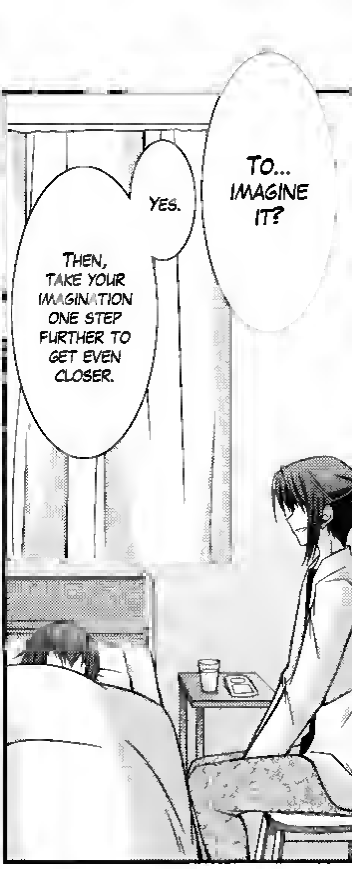
Sorry
I HAVE A COLD, SO I'M NOT FEELING WELL.
Just stay still
HOW'S YOUR CONDITION?
I SEE.. AH.
SPEAKING OF CHIHIRO-CHAN,
?
I TOLD HER ABOUT THIS, SO I THINK SHE'S AT HOME TODAY.
WHERE'S CHIHIRO-CHAN?

Every 13 hours, her memory disappears,
Which means that no matter what happens to her body, her heart will continue to stay a virgin.
.....
It seems like my fever is getting worse, can you please go back?
Sorry, sorry. Just kidding.

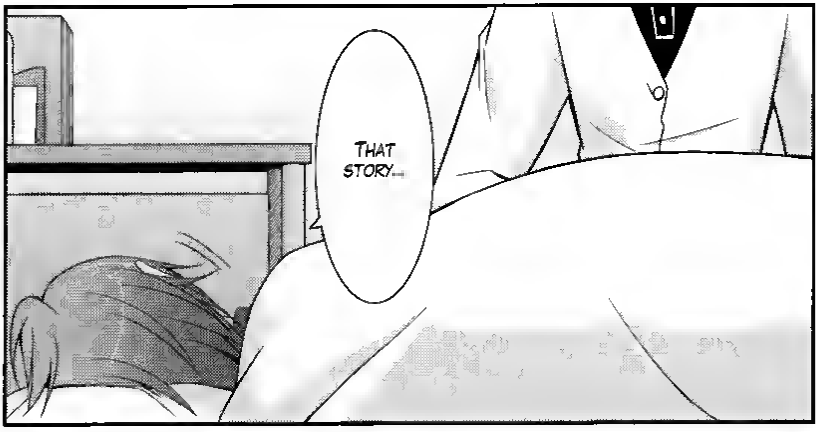
But this proves that your love for her is overflowing.
...Yeah
Sorry, I didn't realize.
No... it's fine.

TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU, HOW ABOUT I PERFORM SOMETHING FOR YOU?
RIGHT NOW, IT'S A BIT...
I APPRECIATE IT, BUT I DON'T THINK MY HEAD WOULD BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.
THAT'S TRUE.
..KUZE-SAN...
WHAT SHOULD SOMEONE DO IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE?
HMM?
IT'S A SIMPLE THING.
FIRST, IN ORDER TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A DREAM.

THE IMAGE I SEE IS THE VIOLIN.


TO... IMAGINE IT?
YES.
THEN, TAKE YOUR IMAGINATION ONE STEP FURTHER TO GET EVEN CLOSER.

IMAGINE HUH.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE CHIHIRO-CHAN AND RENJI WRITING?


THAT STORY...

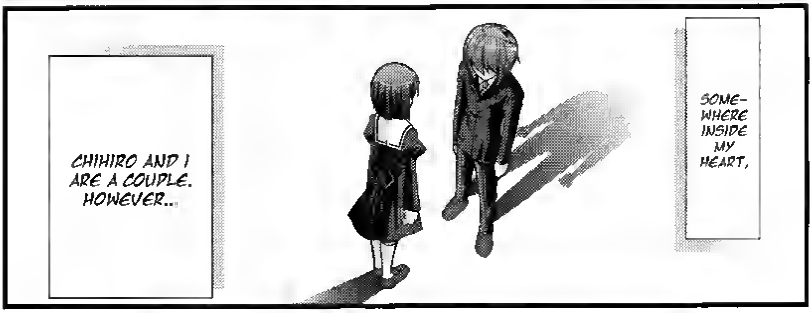
IN THE END, I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT IT.
THE GIRL THAT IS ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD,
AND
ABOUT CHIHIRO...

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

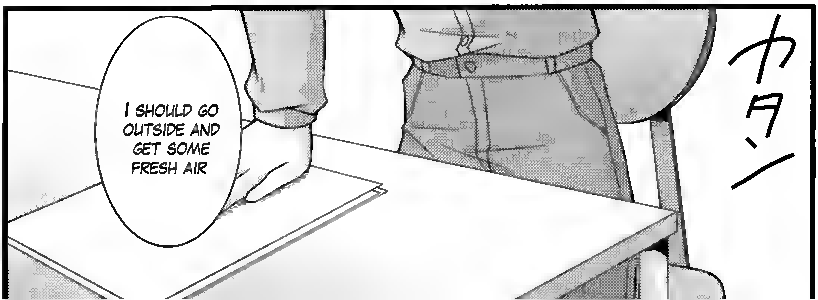
A DAY HASN'T GONE BY WITHOUT ME THINKING ABOUT CHIHIRO AND THE GIRL IN THE STORY

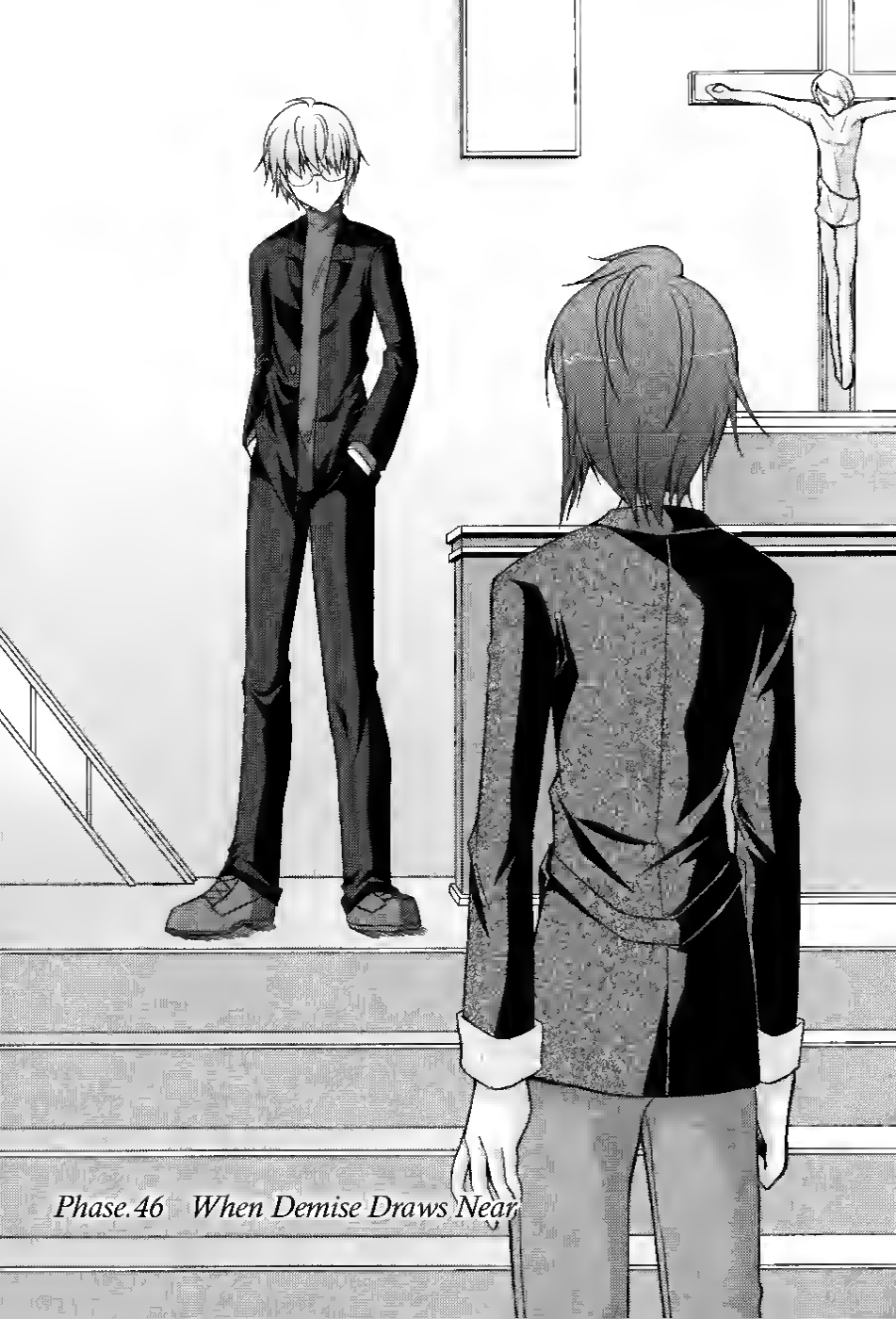
EVEN IF AN OBSTACLE EXISTS, AS LONG AS WE PUT TOGETHER OUR STRENGTHS, WE'D BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.



I THOUGHT I COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD IT...
CHIHIRO'S DISABILITY

EVEN IF CHIHIRO AND I WERE TO BECOME A COUPLE,
SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REMEMBER THAT.
AH~ GEEZ
HAS STAYING AT HOME FOR TWO DAYS MADE ME PESSIMISTIC?


I SHOULD GO OUTSIDE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR
カタン



Phase.46　When Demise Draws Near

YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU, HIMURA-SAN?
WELL, BASICALLY EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS CITY.
HAVE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR COLD ALREADY?
ABOUT CHIHIRO, RIGHT?
...YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
SHE'S BEEN A BIT ODD LATELY.
OTHER THAN THAT, YOU CAME TO THE CHURCH BECAUSE YOU HAD SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH ME, RIGHT?
YOU...SAW THROUGH THAT TOO, HUH?
Ahaha...
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

I SEE.
COULD IT BE
THAT SHE'S GOING TO END IT LIKE THE STORY THAT SHE'S MAKING RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S PROBABLY HOW IT IS.
IN THE END, WAS IT JUST ME BEING TOO CONCEITED ...?
THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU NOT TO GET TOO DEEP INTO IT.
AS I THOUGHT.
Haa.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
YOU COULD SEPARATE US BY ALL MEANS.
I ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE CHIHIRO THAT I'VE SEEN UP UNTIL NOW.
UP UNTIL NOW?

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT...?
IF IT'S THE "CHIHIRO" THAT I KNOW, THEN I WOULD BE THINKING THE SAME THING THAT YOU ARE.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T INTERFERE WITH ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN THE THINGS THAT SHE REALLY NEEDS.

RENJI
SHE KNOWS IT HERSELF, THAT'S WHY SHE DOESN'T MAKE MUCH CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
EVEN SO, SHE MADE THE DECISION TO WRITE A STORY WITH YOU.
I PROBABLY KNOW THE ANSWER THAT YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR.
AND I ALSO KNOW WHAT CHIHIRO SHOULD BE DOING.
HOWEVER, AN ANSWER IS
NOTHING BUT AN ANSWER
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

IF I LISTEN TO HIMURA-SAN'S "ANSWER," THEN IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVERY-THING COULD BE SOLVED
HOW-EVER..
...NO,
LET'S STOP HERE.
IF I LISTEN TO HIS ANSWER
THEN THE STORY BETWEEN CHIHIRO AND I WILL DEFINITELY END.
I SEE.
SLAM
THEN,
I WILL GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE.

FACE THE STORY THAT CHIHIRO IS PORTRAYING EARNESTLY.
WHY IS CHIHIRO WRITING THAT KIND OF A STORY...?
IF YOU'RE WRITING IT WITH HER, THEN THINK ABOUT THAT.
FIND THE "ENDING" TO THE STORY
BEFORE CHIHIRO DOES.

THE GIRL IS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD.
THAT MADE HER THE GOD OF THIS WORLD.
THE GIRL WANTED TO CREATE A DIFFERENT WORLD. SO SHE BEGAN TO PAINT.
BOOKS INSIDE THE MANSION CONTAINED MANY STORIES WITH BOTH A MAN AND A WOMAN.
THAT'S WHY SHE BEGAN TO THINK OF CREATING A WORLD DIFFERENT FROM THIS WORLD.

THE BOY WAS DRAWN BASED ON THE PORTRAIT IN THE BOOKS.
THE MODEL FOR THE GIRL INSIDE THE PAINTING WAS HERSELF.
THEN, ONE DAY, SOMETHING MIRACULOUS HAPPENED.
AFTER PRACTICING COUNTLESS TIMES SHE FINALLY GOT BETTER AT IT, AND OVER HUNDREDS OF PORTRAITS HAD BEEN DRAWN
AT FIRST, SHE COULD NOT DRAW VERY WELL SHE CONTINUED AGAIN AND AGAIN.
THE TWO PEOPLE INSIDE THE PAINTING BEGAN TO MOVE.

SUDDENLY, THE GIRL FELT MAGICAL
NO MATTER HOW LONG SHE LOOKED INTO THE PAINTING, THE TWO INSIDE THE PAINTING NEVER SEEMED TO REALIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER WORLD.
THE TWO INSIDE THE PAINTING LAUGHED TOGETHER
WHY WERE THE TWO IN THE PAINTING LAUGHING TOGETHER?
THE GIRL HAD BEEN "ALONE" FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD REMEMBER. SO SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND VERY WELL BUT
SHE BEGAN TO HARVEST HER FIRST FEELINGS OF INTEREST TOWARD THE BOY INSIDE THE PAINTING

SHE PAINTED THE SO CALLED "WEDDING" CEREMONY THAT OCCURRED IN THE BOOKS
SHE WAS IN A WEDDING DRESS AND THE MAN WAS IN A TUXEDO SEALING THEIR VOWS WITH A KISS.
INDEED, THE TWO DID NOT REALIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER WORLD.
THE GIRL DID NOT KNOW.
WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR THEM TO REALIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER WORLD
SHE BECAME UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND AS TO WHY SHE WAS ALONE.

THE GIRL BEGAN TO WONDER AS TO WHY SHE WAS ALONE... HUH.
.....
IF CHIHIRO IS REALLY PLANNING ON "ENDING IT ALL," THEN
IS THE ENDING OF THIS STORY...?

A HAPPY ENDING
OR A BAD ONE?
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS LEAD THE STORY TO AN ENDING DIFFERENT FROM THE ENDING THAT CHIHIRO IS THINKING ABOUT.
HOW-EVER...
BECAUSE IT'S CHIHIRO'S STORY. NO MATTER HOW LONG I STAY TO MAKE IT WITH HER, I CAN'T CONTINUE WRITING THE REST OF THE STORY.
TOMORROW, I'LL TRY TALKING TO CHIHIRO.

HEY, CHIHIRO.
キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
Ah
ARE YOU RENJI-KUN?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. SORRY FOR NOT SHOWING UP RECENTLY.
DID YOU GET OVER YOUR COLD?
THANKS TO YOU, I FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER.
UM...
ABOUT THAT...
SORRY FOR TAKING A BREAK IN MAKING THE STORY DURING THAT TIME

EH?
IT'S FINISHED?
"FIND THE "ENDING" TO THE STORY BEFORE CHIHIRO DOES."
YES. I FINISHED IT ALONE.
...I SEE.
SO SHE ENDED UP WRITING IT TO THE END...
CONGRATULATIONS.
THANK YOU.
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT I WAS ABLE TO WRITE THE STORY.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT CHIHIRO WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO FROM THE START.
NO, IF RENJI-KUN WASN'T HERE, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING
..HAHA.
THANKS.
FINALLY.
IS IT ALL GOING TO END?

Could I see it as soon as possible?
Of course... However,
Before that, I would like to do one thing to thank you.
Some-thing to thank me?
Yes.
Rather than something to thank you ...it could be considered a reward
ガタン
?
ドキ

TOMORROW, COULD YOU
GO ON A DATE WITH ME?
. . . HEH!?

COULD YOU BECOME MY LOVER?
...ME?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, RENJI-KUN.
UMMM...
Fufu
IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN, I KNEW I'D CATCH YOU BY SURPRISE.
OF COURSE, IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T GIVE ME A RESPONSE RIGHT NOW.
SFX: Heartbeat

TRIAL?
THAT'S WHY WE'LL MAKE TOMORROW A TRIAL PERIOD.
カタン
YES.
WE'LL BE A COUPLE FOR TOMORROW ONLY.
AFTER THE DATE, YOU CAN DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
.....
WHAT IS THIS ?
SUCH A PROACTIVE CHIHIRO IS A FIRST
I THINK THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU CAN ONLY UNDERSTAND AFTER BECOMING A COUPLE.
BUT...
I'D ALSO LIKE TO GIVE YOU THE COMPLETED NOVEL AT THAT TIME

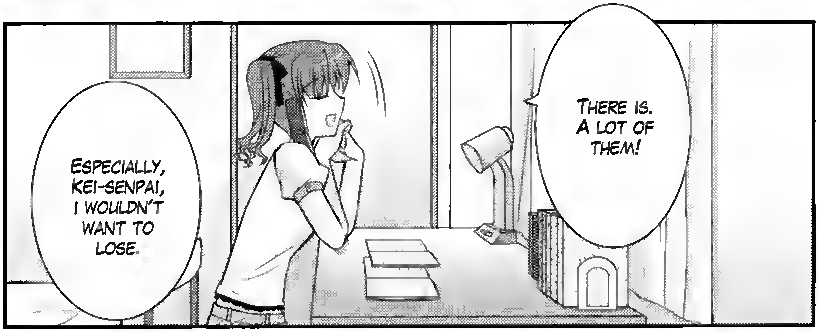
HOW ABOUT IT...?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME TO BEGIN WITH, THEN I CAN JUST GIVE YOU THE NOVEL NOW.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE TRUE.
IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU .
THEN I WOULDN'T BE SO WORRIED
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO ON A DATE.
...I'M SO GLAD
THEN, IS IT OKAY FOR US TO MEET UP AT THE STATION AT TEN O'CLOCK TOMORROW?
YES, THAT'S FINE.

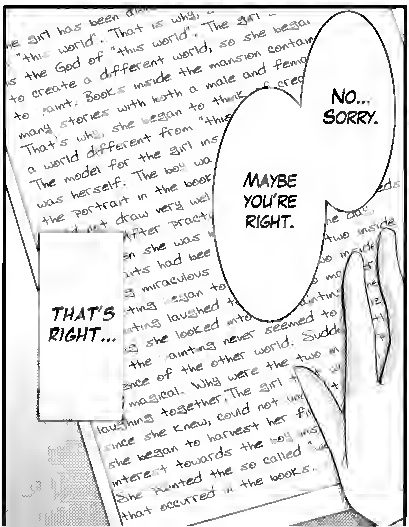
AFTER THIS DATE, EVERY-THING WILL...
COULD IT BE...
RENJI-KUN.
YES?
PLEASE THINK OF ME AS YOUR REAL LOVER WHEN YOU COME TOMORROW.
OKAY?
WELL THEN, SEE YOU TOMORROW.
AH...
CHIHIRO.
I HAVE TO ASK...
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN...

THAT THING, ABOUT FOUR DAYS AGO...
DID YOU WRITE IT IN YOUR DIARY?
I
REALLY LIKE RENJI-KUN.
SO THAT'S
THE ANSWER

ef
a fairy tale of the two.

WHAT'S WITH THE CALL ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I'm busy studying for the entrance exam
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO ASK.
WHAT IS IT?
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT MIZUKI DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE?


THERE IS. A LOT OF THEM!
ESPECIALLY, KEI-SENPAI, I WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE.

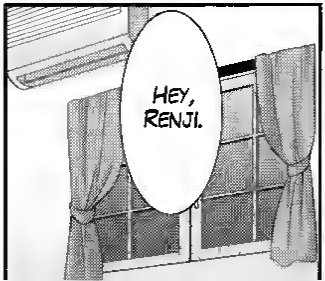

NO... SORRY.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT...

...YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO GO THERE.
ISN'T THIS WHAT IT'S ABOUT?

EVER SINCE I LOST THAT GIRL AS A CHILD,
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM VARIOUS THINGS IN ORDER TO NOT TO LOSE THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ME.
RENJI HAS THEM TOO, RIGHT?
THINGS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE.

UM... WELL, YEAH.
HEH, HOW STRAIGHT FORWARD.

...WORRYING OVER SO MANY THINGS, THAT SHOWS THAT RENJI IS A GENTLE GUY.
Is that ...so?
HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...


HEY, RENJI.

I LIKE RENJI.
SHE SAID THE SAME THING AS THE PERSON DID IN MY DREAMS...
...THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD IT.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SAID IT.
BEING GENTLE ALONE, IS NOT ENOUGH.
IF THERE'S NO ONE TO USE IT FOR THEN IT IS JUST A USELESS TREASURE.

THAT'S WHY
GO MAKE SOME FRIENDS.
...I SEE.
I FEEL INSECURE,
BEING UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT I CAN ACCEPT CHIHIRO'S THOUGHTS ...
YES, YES. THAT'S RIGHT!

TRY THE BEST THAT YOU CAN.
カ
TOMOR-ROW'S GOING TO BE THE DAY.

IF YOU'VE ALREADY LOST IT THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
TOMORROW, WHEN WE MEET UP, BEFORE SHE HANDS OVER THE STORY, I WILL CONFESS TO HER.
I KNOW.

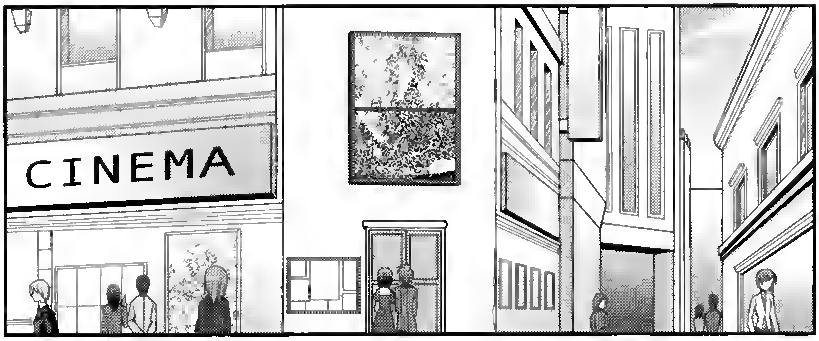
ABOUT THE FACT THAT I LIKE CHIHIRO.

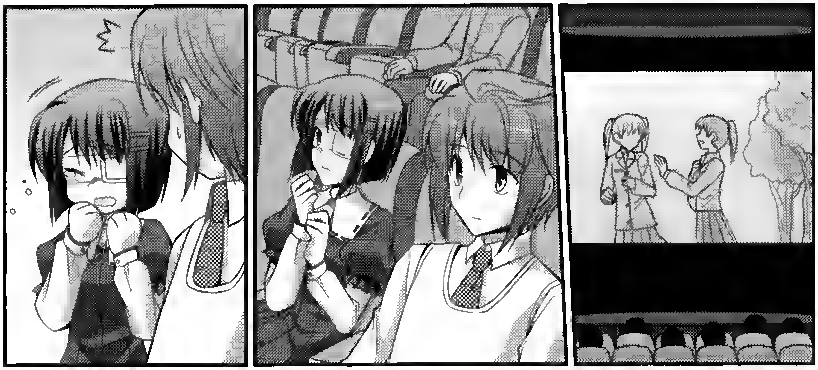
Phase.47　Thank You

...UM
AHH...
?
RENJI-KUN?
GOOD MORNING.
YEAH.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO... THOSE CLOTHES.

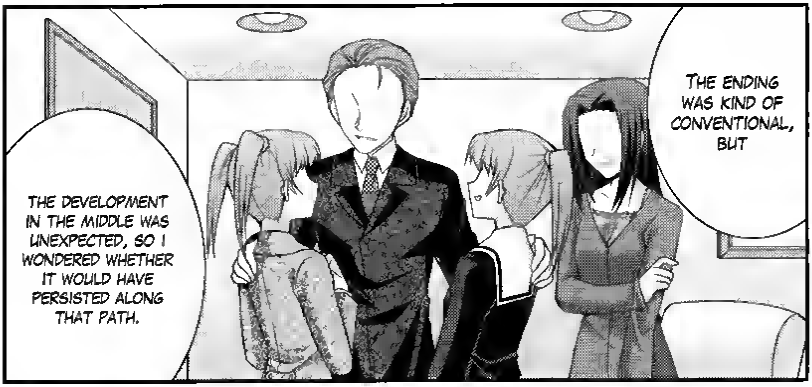
IN AN INSTANT, I WAS CHARMED ...
...YEAH, YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE
EHEHE.. SINCE IT'S A DATE, I DRESSED A BIT MORE FASHIONABLE
DOES IT SUIT ME?
THANK YOU.
BUT, AREN'T YOU COLD?
JUST A LITTLE...
BUT, MOMENTS LIKE THESE A GIRL SHOULD ENDURE
AND-

LIKE THIS,
IF WE JOIN OUR HANDS IT WILL BECOME WARM.
I WANTED TO BECOME A LOVER SUITED TO RENJI-KUN,
hmm
I READ A LOT OF BOOKS TO BE PREPARED FOR TODAY.
I SEE...
I'M HAPPY.
LET'S JUST ENJOY THE DATE TODAY
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE?
UM. HOW ABOUT A MOVIE?

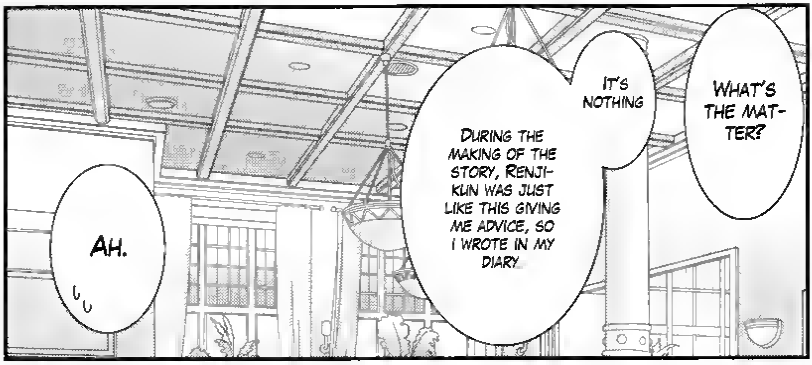

CINEMA



A FAMILY ONCE SPLIT IN TWO, THEN REUNITES AS ONE AGAIN...
I'M GLAD THAT IT WAS A HAPPY END.
YEAH.
IT WAS QUITE INTERESTING, THAT MOVIE


THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MIDDLE WAS UNEXPECTED, SO I WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE PERSISTED ALONG THAT PATH.
THE ENDING WAS KIND OF CONVENTIONAL, BUT

FUFU
I AGREE ...
CERTAINLY, ANOTHER SURPRISE WOULD HAVE MADE IT MORE INTERESTING.


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S NOTHING
DURING THE MAKING OF THE STORY, RENJI-KUN WAS JUST LIKE THIS GIVING ME ADVICE, SO I WROTE IN MY DIARY.
AH.

SPEAKING OF THAT, THAT'S TRUE.
THEN, I HAVEN'T CHANGED FROM THE USUAL ME.
WHEN I AM TALKING WITH CHIHIRO
Ehehe
BUT, I'M HAPPY JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
RECEIVING THOSE WORDS FROM YOU MAKES ME HAPPY TOO.
I AM TRULY HAPPY.

RENJI-KUN, LOOK.
AH...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL ...

カアッ
RENJI-KUN
...GEE

EH?
IT IS REALLY
YEAH...

SPEAKING OF SUNSET, I REMEMBERED SOMETHING.
AH.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...
SINCE IT'S SUNSET, WANT TO GO TO THE SEA AND HAVE A LOOK?
THIS...
THIS IS?
IT'S A DUPLICATE KEY TO THE ROOFTOP OF THE SCHOOL.

SAY,
WOULD YOU WANT TO GO NOW?
GOING TO THE ROOM TOP DURING THE DUSK PROVIDES AN EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL SCENERY OF THE TOWN-SCAPE
...HEH?
HIMURA-SAN TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO RENJI-KUN.
WHY DOES HIMURA-SAN HAVE THIS SORT OF THING?
. . . . . .
.. HE REALLY IS A MYS-TERIOUS PERSON.
HA
HA
HA
...I WONDER WHY?

Somehow it seems romantic
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS A TRADITION TO PASS ON THE KEY WHEN THE CURRENT HOLDER FEELS LIKE IT OR DURING GRADUATION.
WHEN ONE FEELS LIKE IT...
How Himura-san like
THEN THAT MEANS
HIMURA SAN WAS ALSO A STUDENT OF OTOWA
YES.
THAT ASIDE,
THEN, LET'S GO TO THE SCHOOL.

UWAA...
IT'S AMAZING ...
THIS ROOFTOP DOESN'T HAVE A FENCE...
EVERY-THING IS DYED IN THE SAME COLOR...
NOW I MUST THANK HIMURA-SAN FOR THIS.
FUFU! THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIVER
CHI-HIRO.
IF WE HOLD HANDS LIKE THIS, IT GETS A LITTLE WARMER.
...YES

CHIHIRO.
AH.
UM... RENJI-KUN
EMBRACING CHIHIRO LIKE THIS
-HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE THEN
HEY, CHIHIRO.
...NO,
IT FEELS WARM
...IT'S EM-BAR-RASS-ING.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

I LOVE YOU TOO.
CHIHIRO.
JUST LIKE THIS~

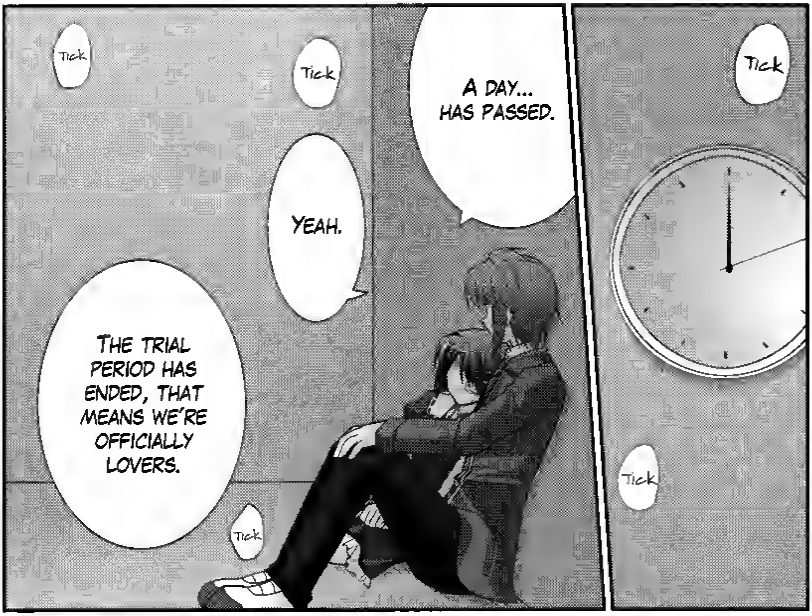
I WILL LOVE CHIHIRO TOMORROW, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, NOW AND FOREVER
JUST LIKE THIS IF TIME STOPPED EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALRIGHT
WHAT SHOULD I DO
.....

I...
MAKING YOU SAY THAT TO ME.
I LIKE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
.....

Is it okay,
if we kiss.
You can't... A kiss is what lovers do.
I'm Chihiro's lover.
At time's like these, you're suppose to keep quiet and go for the kiss.
...You're right.

TODAY,
PLEASE STAY BY MY SIDE.

...Is it really okay if you don't go home today?
図書室
Yeah...
I'm really happy right now.
That's why I want to continue to stay with Renji-kun.
That's right...
...Can I not?
There's still time for us.
Okay,
I understand.
Right now, let's just savor this happiness.


Tick
Tick
A day... has passed.
Tick
Yeah.
The trial period has ended, that means we're officially lovers.
Tick
Tick

...Yeah.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WANT TO READ ABOUT ALL THE THINGS
THAT I'VE DONE WITH RENJI-KUN SINCE THE DAY WE MET.
...CAN I
READ IT TOO?
YES.

COUNTING BACK, WHEN WE WERE HEADED TO SCHOOL-
AT FIVE..
THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD AT THE THEATRE AND CAFE COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED ...
HOW FAR BACK DID CHIHIRO'S MEMORY DISAPPEAR?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

I WISH IT DIDN'T DISAP-PEAR.
THAT SUN-SET.
THE WORDS OF MY CON-FES-SION.
AND...
RENJI-KUN.
..IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GO BACK?
BEFORE THAT, I WANT TO HAND SOMETHING TO YOU.

THIS IS
YEAH
THE FINAL STORY
FINAL...
I THOUGHT ABOUT HANDING IT TO YOU AFTER THE DATE ENDED.
WITH THIS
IT IS REALLY ...
DEFINITELY, THE ME DURING THAT TIME HAD A LOT. A LOT OF TROUBLES WRITING THAT.
PRO-BABLY,
FROM NOW ON I'LL STILL BE THINKING ABOUT THE SAME THINGS.
OVER.

RENJI-KUN.

THANK YOU
FOR EVERY-THING UP TILL NOW.

ef

a fairy tale of the two.

Renji-kun.
Thank you for everything up till now.
What's the matter, saying that now.

Renji-kun did a lot of things for my sake.

Restarting me on writing the story that I gave up for a long time.
Letting me put on a school uniform, allowing me to go to school.
Taking me out from that station that goes to nowhere.

I WANTED TO CRY.
WHEN WE FIRST MET, I WAS LOOKING UP BECAUSE
YOU EMBRACED
THAT KIND OF ME.
TAKING ME OUT FROM THAT STATION THAT GOES TO NOWHERE
I WAS HAPPY.
SO-

Phase.48
Her story

I SOMEHOW KNEW.
I SOME-HOW REA-LIZED THAT IT WOULD HAVE COME TO THIS.
BUT-
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO ACCEPT
...NO.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS

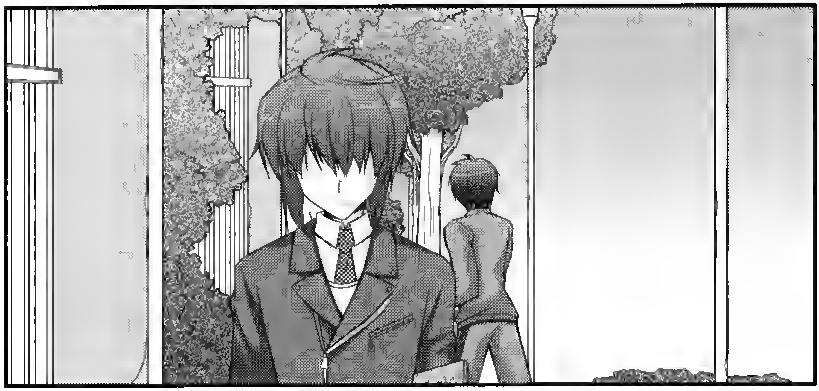
.....
I CAN'T BREAK UP.. WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.
I LIKE CHIHIRO.

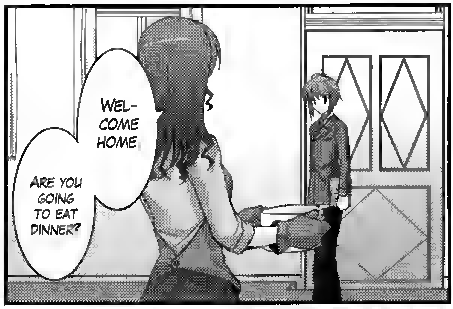
I'M NOT BREAKING UP BECAUSE I DISLIKE YOU.

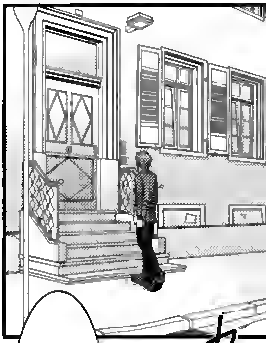
I'M BREAKING UP BECAUSE I WISH FOR RENJI-KUN TO BECOME HAPPY.

I WILL DISAPPEAR FROM RENJI-KUN'S SIDE
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS,
SOMEDAY, I WILL END UP HURTING RENJI-KUN DEEPLY.
IF WE STAYED TO-GETHER,
CHIHIRO'S STUBBORN.
.....
THAT MAY BE TRUE.
REALLY... SORRY FOR BEING SO SELFISH ALL THE TIME.

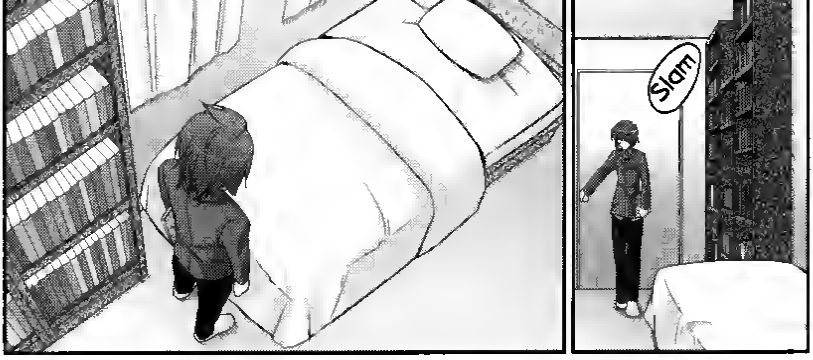
PLEASE MAKE IT END IN HAPPINESS.
IN THE END, I COULDN'T GET TO THE ENDING BEFORE CHIHIRO.
THANK YOU.
.....
THIS IS~ THE END HUH.
GOODBYE.

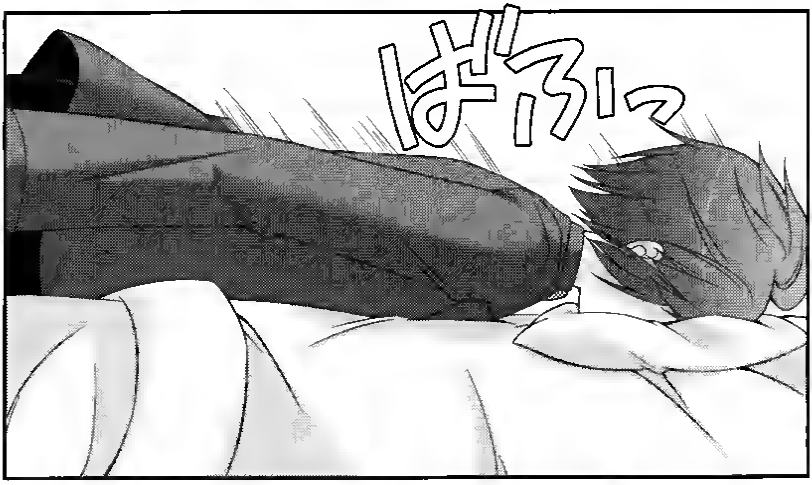


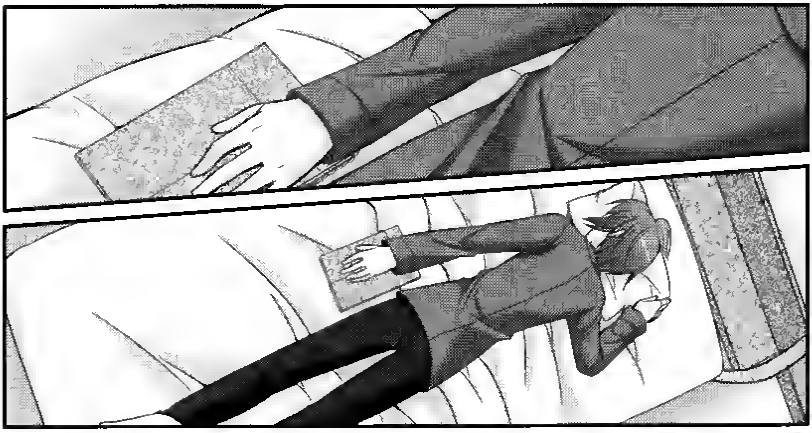

WEL-
COME
HOME.
ARE YOU
GOING
TO EAT
DINNER?

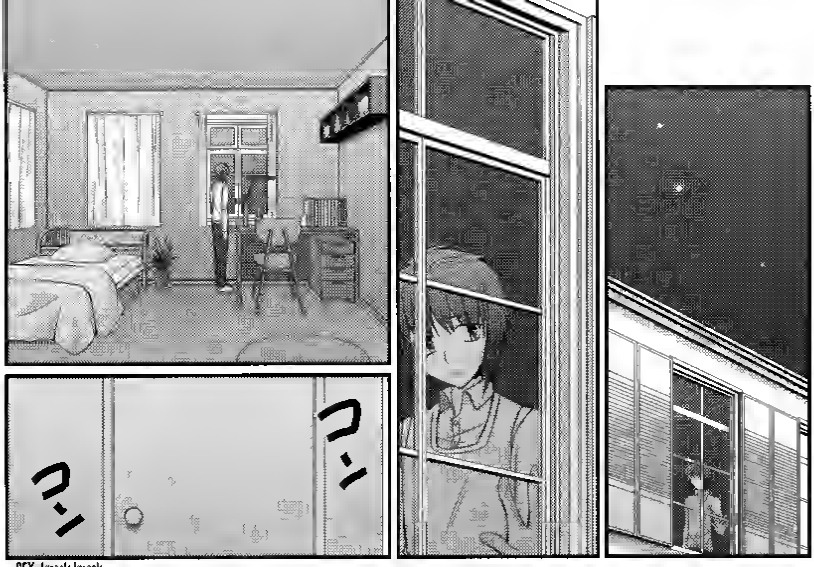


...I'M
HOME.


Slam


ばふっ





SFX. knock knock

SFX. Door opens

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I RECEIVED THE PAPER ON CAREER COUNSELING,
THE DEADLINE FOR THAT IS SOON.
.....
YEAH.
DID YOU KNOW?
YEAH. I FOUND OUT QUITE A WHILE BACK IN THE COOKING CLASS.
AAH, I SEE.
...I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT.

I LIKE READING, BUT...
I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT.
MAYBE I'M ONLY THINKING ABOUT THIS SERIOUSLY NOW...
BUT, I MIGHT GIVE UP ALONG THE WAY.
BUT-
RIGHT NOW, THAT'S NOT TRUE ANYMORE, RIGHT?

MOTHER'LL BE SUPPORTING RENJI.
MOTHER- HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING AFTER ME.
I'LL WRAP THE DINNER, SO PLEASE EAT IT WHEN YOU GET HUNGRY.

THANK YOU, MOTHER.
NOW... I CAN SAY IT
NORMALLY, I'D BE SHY AND UNABLE TO SPEAK OUT, BUT

eer Survey
lame Asou Renji
First choice Novelist
Second choice
Third choice

THIS IS-

YESTERDAY, I READ CHIHIRO'S STORY OVER AND OVER AGAIN,
BUT JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ENDING.
IS THAT REALLY
SOMETHING CHIHIRO WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT-?

"FIND THE ENDING TO THE STORY BEFORE CHIHIRO DOES."
I SEE... THIS IS...
CHIHIRO'S STORY.
THIS IS NOT A STORY
OF "TWO".

WHY DID CHIHIRO HAND ME THE STORY AT THE END.
WHY DID SHE END THE STORY LIKE THIS.
...I NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS DEEPLY.
THE FACT THAT WE WERE HERE WATCHING THE SUNSET TOGETHER.
THE FACT THAT I CONFESSED TO HER.
I DON'T WANT IT TO DISAP-PEAR.

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE
ANYONE IMPORTANT TO ME ANY-MORE.
I CANNOT JUST GIVE UP.
BESIDES.
BESIDES, CHIHIRO DEFINITELY STILL HAS IT.
THAT DIARY
CON-TAINING OUR MEMO-RIES.

EF - A FAIRY TALE OF THE TWO VOLUME 8

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RAWS: THE INTERNET
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